

**Sports
Illustrated**
PRESENTS

BASEBALL'S

200

GREATEST TEAMS OF ALL TIME

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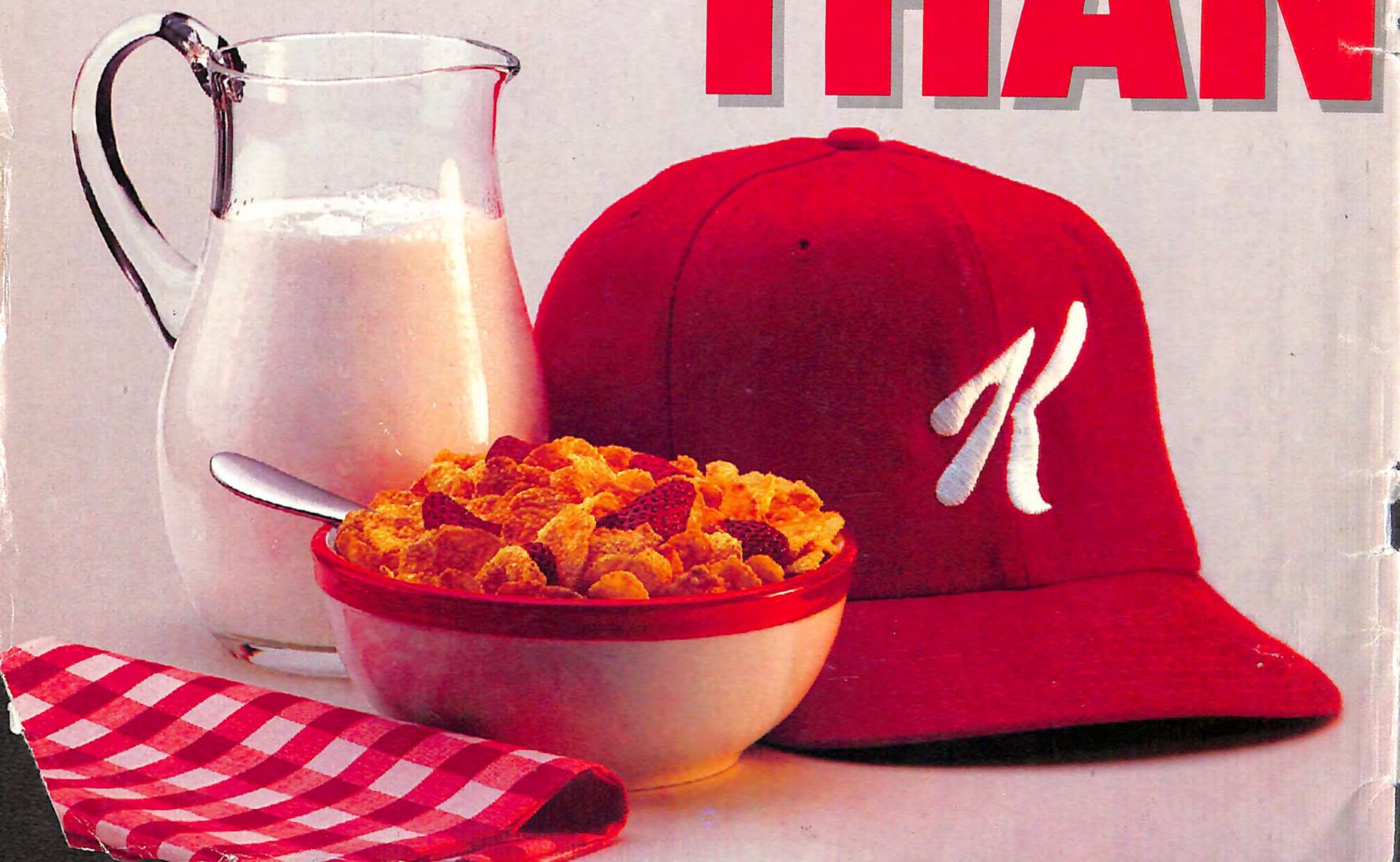
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BASEBALL'S

200

GREATEST TEAMS OF ALL TIME



CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

STEVE WULF, RON FIMRITE,
ROBERT W. CREAMER,
WALTER BINGHAM,
JEFF BRADLEY,
ALBERT KIM, RICHARD O'BRIEN,
JAMES RODEWALD, JON SCHER



EDITOR

DAVID BAUER

DESIGN DIRECTOR

F. DARRIN PERRY

PICTURE EDITORS

LAUREL FRANKEL,
BRADLEY M. SMITH

COPY EDITORS

GABRIEL MILLER,
NANCY NASWORTHY

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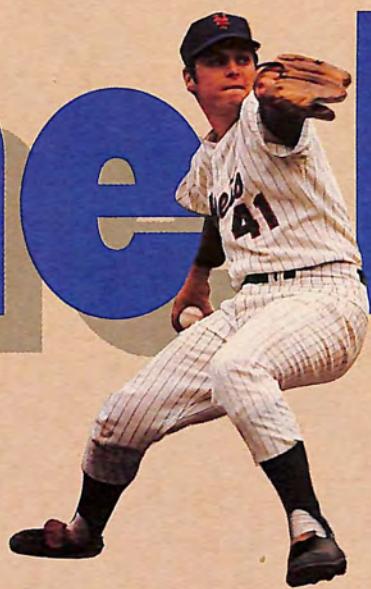
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*After a vigilant voyage through
chosen the game's 20 greatest teams.
choose to argue*





the Best

*the annals of baseball, we have
One thing is inarguable: You will
• by Steve Wulf*





THE TIMELESSNESS OF BASEBALL CAN BE TRACED IN THE LEFTFIELD
LEGACY OF FENWAY PARK, FROM RUTH TO WILLIAMS TO YASTRZEMSKI TO RICE

There's an old baseball joke that goes something like this: Two fans are talking, and one of them asks the other, "What do you think Joe DiMaggio would hit if he were playing today?"

"Oh, about .250," says the second fan.

"Is that all, .250?"

"You have to remember, Joe is 76 years old."

O.K., the gag is not *that* funny—especially if you've heard it, or any of its variations, several times before. But the joke does make a point about the timelessness of baseball. The thought of Joe D playing today is perfectly natural. That's because the game has remained constant. Oh, nowadays you have designated hitters and indoor stadiums and artificial turf and fake stirrup socks, trappings that were unheard of two generations ago. But the game's the same.

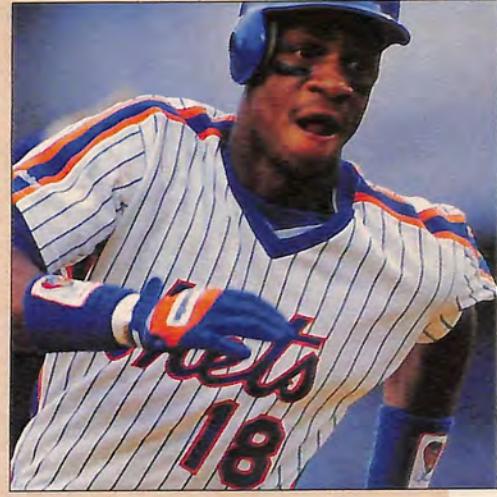
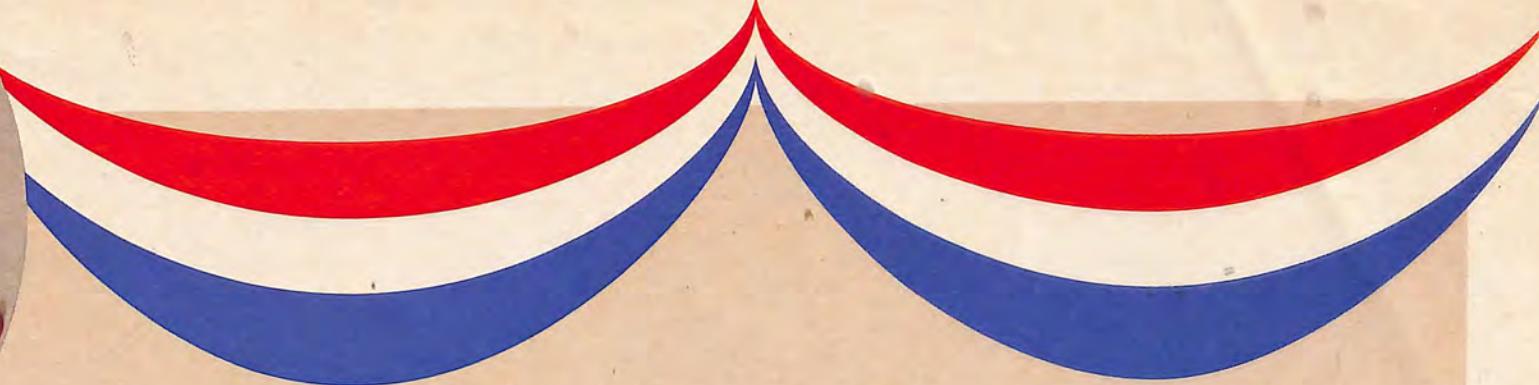
That's why you can go to Fenway Park tomorrow, look out at the Green Monster and travel back in time, from Mike Greenwell to Jim Rice to Carl Yastrzemski to Ted Williams to a Red Sox leftfielder named Babe Ruth. A nondescript New York Yankee catcher throws off his mask, and your imagination suddenly conjures up Thurman Munson or Yogi Berra or Bill Dickey. In Wrigley Field you watch Ryne Sandberg and see Rogers Hornsby. Cecil Fielder is breaking down the same Tiger Stadium fences that Hank Greenberg did.

And you can wonder. Could Walter Johnson have shut down Oakland's Bash Brothers? What would Lou Gehrig have done with a

Roger Clemens fastball? Could Cy Young have won the Cy Young Award? That potential to span the ages is one of the great beauties of baseball. No other sport in this country has its history; no other sport has remained so immutable. Sammy Baugh would not make it out of an NFL training camp today. The old reliable two-hand set shot would be laughed off the court in the NBA of the '90s. John McEnroe would skunk Bill Tilden every time.

With baseball, though, you can feel comfortable comparing Jim Palmer with Christy Mathewson. Legs may be faster now, arms may be stronger, reflexes may be quicker, but in the perfect geometry of baseball—90 feet between bases; 60 feet, 6 inches from rubber to plate—the battles between pitcher and batter, catcher and base stealer, shortstop and the runner to first are the same battles that were waged 100 years ago. That's why records mean something in baseball. Rickey Henderson broke the career stolen base record of Lou Brock (1961-79), who broke the record set by Ty Cobb (1905-28). In the universe of baseball, the Georgia Peach and Darryl Strawberry are essentially teammates, even if Cobb would have hated the Straw Man, and vice versa.

Because of the evergreen nature of the game, we can compare not just great players, but also great teams. As clubs struggled to defeat the vaunted Oakland Athletics in recent seasons, how many times did you hear managers say, "The A's are good, but they're not the '27



IN A HISTORICAL SENSE, COBB AND STRAWBERRY ARE
TEAMMATES—THOUGH IN THAT UNIVERSAL DUGOUT THEY WOULD
MOST LIKELY KEEP THEIR DISTANCE

Yanks"? Writers even did player-by-player matchups of the '89 Athletics and the '27 Yankees: Jose Canseco vs. Ruth, Walter Weiss vs. Mark Koenig, Dave Stewart vs. Waite Hoyt. It was fun to muse on a World Series between past and present.

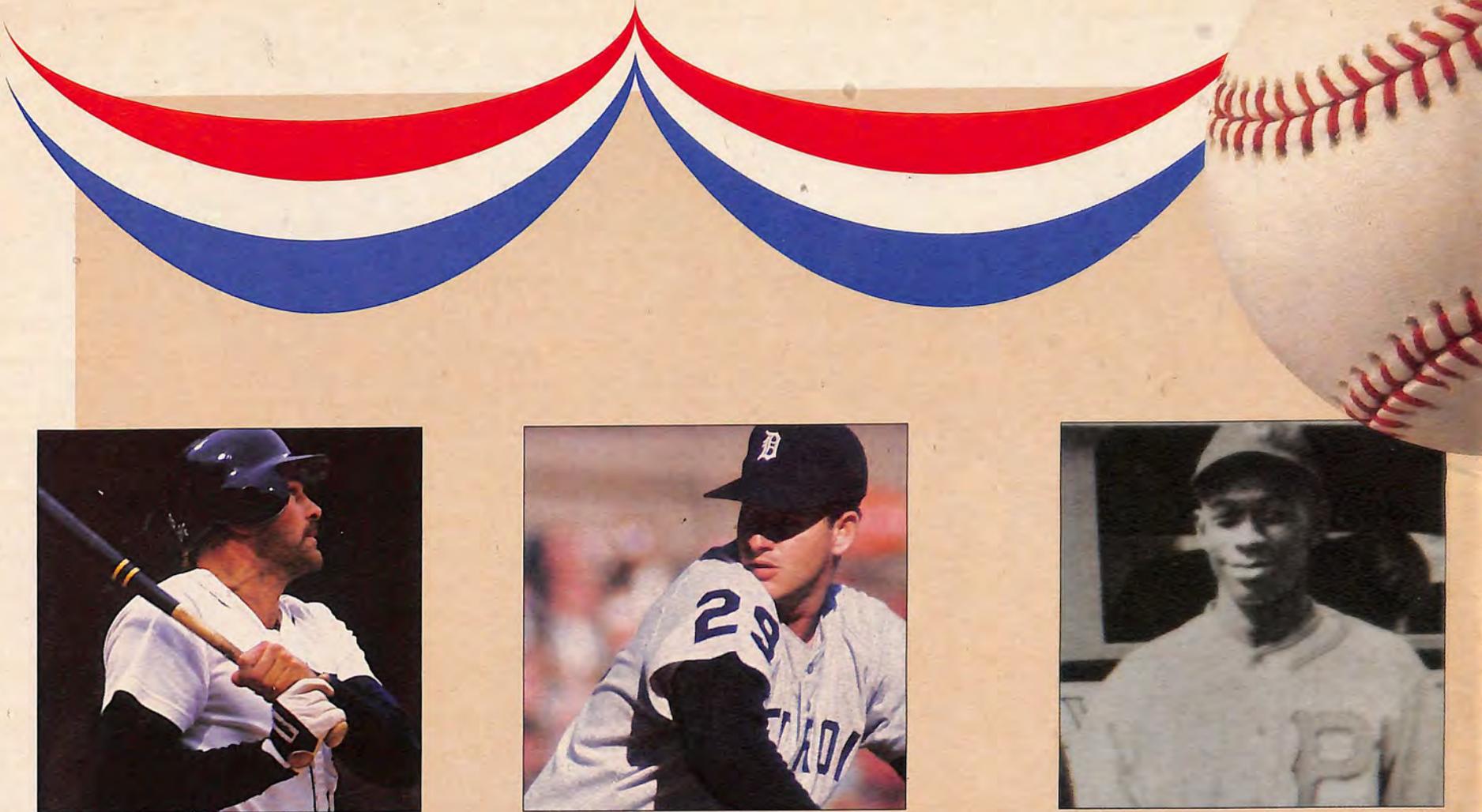
In that same spirit, SPORTS ILLUSTRATED presents this book of baseball's 20 greatest teams. The choices are subjective. We didn't feed data into a computer, we didn't dust off our old Strat-o-Matic cards, and we didn't take a poll. We did, however, do a lot of research and talk to a number of baseball people: scouts, coaches, writers, executives, historians, fans. We had two primary criteria for selection: 1) The team had to have won the World Series—the ultimate objective measuring stick—and 2) the team had to have a certain memorable magic about it.

The 1954 Cleveland Indians, to give you an example of a great team that did not make our list, won more regular-season games (111) than any club in American League history. But they didn't meet criterion number 1. "Don't tell me they don't belong," says Al Rosen, now the general manager of the Giants but then the Indians' rookie third baseman. "We had great pitching, the batting champion in Bobby Avila, the home run champion in Larry Doby. The Yankees were kings in those days, and we had to win 111 games in a 154-game season to beat them. The '54 Indians were very special." And they were swept in the Series by the New York Giants. Sorry, Al.

Modern-day Mets fans may disagree, but the '86 Mets didn't make our group of 20 because of criterion number 2. For all the games they won (108), that '86 club didn't have the magic of the '69 Mets, who *did* make our list. The Miracle Mets routed the talented '69 Orioles; the groundball-through-Bill-Buckner's-legs Mets were lucky to beat the '86 Red Sox. There is a difference between magic and luck. On paper the Mets of Dwight Gooden and Gary Carter are a better team than the Mets of Tom Seaver and Jerry Grote, but if the two Metropolitans played tomorrow, we have a feeling the '69 team would win. And remember, Ron Swoboda is 46 years old.

Already we can see we're making some of you angry. We expect you to quarrel with some of the selections. In fact, we did a lot of quarreling among ourselves in order to arrive at the Top 20. Remember, though, that the title here is not *The Only Great Teams*. A lot of our favorite teams didn't make the cut either.

Some of you, for example, may think the 1990 Reds belong on any list of great teams—Tiger manager Sparky Anderson says they do. And speaking of Sparky, how, you might ask, could we leave off his '84 Tigers? Led by Kirk Gibson and Alan Trammell, they tore through everything that stood in their way. Or what about the '80 Phillies of Mike Schmidt and Tug McGraw? They brought the 90-year-old franchise its first world championship. "I'd put that club right up there," says Phillie coach Hal Lanier. "Look at all the years they won



TWO DYNAMIC DETROIT TEAMS JUST MISSED
THE LIST: THE '84 TIGERS OF GIBSON AND THE
'68 TIGERS OF LOLICH

PAIGE AND HIS PITTSBURGH
CRAWFORDS TEAMMATES
WERE BRILLIANT PLAYERS
BUT CAME UP SHORT

the National League East, and then they finally won it all in '80. They were a great, great team."

Who could forget the pounding rhythms of the '79 Pirates, Willie Stargell and Fam-a-lee? They had to beat the Orioles three straight to win that World Series, and Red Sox coach Johnny Pesky thinks they belong on the list. Why not the '68 Tigers? They slipped the Cardinals two Mickeys—Lolich and Stanley—and have garnered the vote of Giants catcher Terry Kennedy 23 years later. Or the Cardinals of '67? With the arm of Bob Gibson, they derailed the Red Sox' Impossible Dream. Pesky and the Cardinals' manager that year, Red Schoendienst, pick that club as one of the all-time greats.

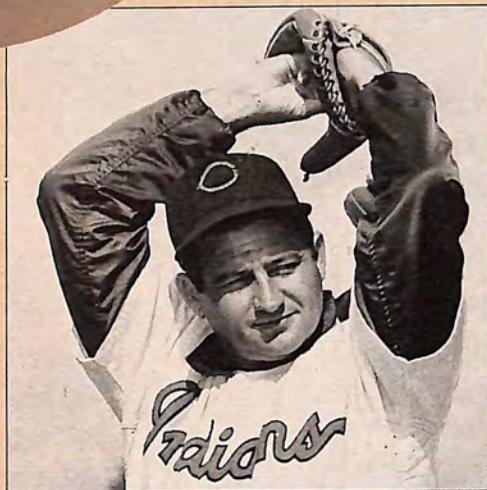
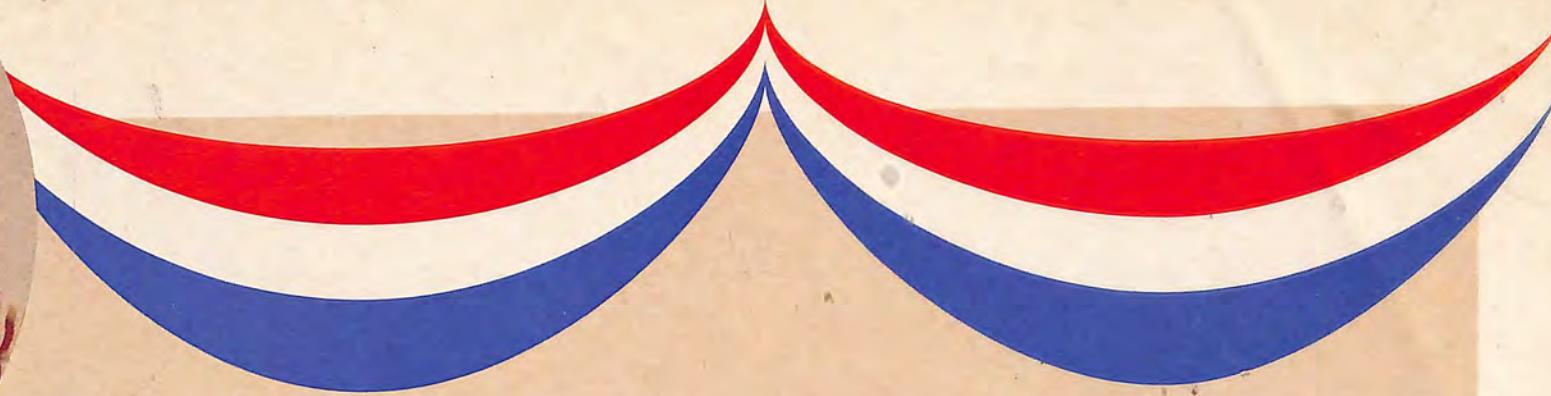
What were the '63 Dodgers of Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale, chopped chicken liver? They blew the powerful Yankees away in four straight. "Not only that," says Kennedy, "they held them to just four runs!" The '57 Milwaukee Braves are favored by a number of baseball's wise men—Cub manager Don Zimmer, Phillie coach Denis Menke, Oriole general manager Roland Hemond, Schoendienst.

With each painful cut, we felt more and more guilt. What do we tell Bill Mazeroski if he asks why the '60 Pirates didn't make it? How can we look Lou Boudreau in the eye after denying the '48 Indians? "They were a great ball club," says Max Lanier, Hal's father and a pitcher in that era. "So were the '45 Tigers. Hal Newhouser, Virgil Trucks, Tommy Bridges, those were great pitchers. Don't forget them." We didn't forget them. We just didn't select them.

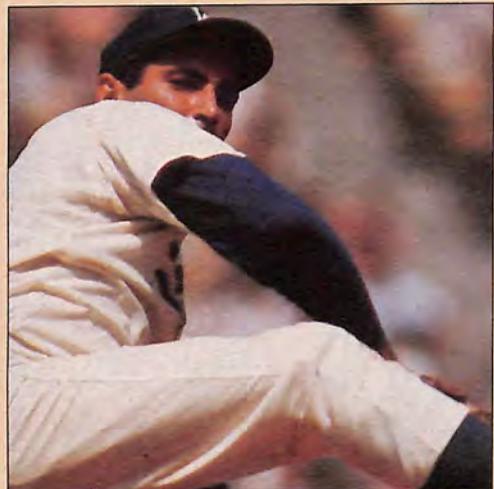
One night we'll wake up in a cold sweat, having heard the voice of Mickey Cochrane telling us we shouldn't have picked his '29 Athletics over his '35 Tigers. Oriole scout Birdie Tebbets, who broke in with the Tigers a year later, thinks that '35 team was one of the best.

Among the other teams we considered were the '21 Giants of Frankie Frisch and Casey Stengel—the centerfielder, not the manager—and the '20 Indians, whose manager, Tris Speaker, was the centerfielder. Red Sox scout Sam Mele includes the '18 Red Sox as one of the great teams—they were the last Bosox to win a World Series. Then there were the 1917 White Sox. That was a magnificent team with much the same cast as the Black Sox of 1919. Little did Chick Gandil, "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, Eddie Cicotte et al. know that their conspiracy to throw the Series to the Reds would cost them a place here in these pages.

We even evaluated pre-World Series era teams, that is, clubs that played before 1903, when the Series became an official entity. One of those teams, the 1885 White Stockings, made the Top 20—the only exception to our rule that a team had to have won a world championship. We regret that there's no place for the 1894 Orioles, whose starters included Hall of Famers Willie Keeler, John McGraw, Dan Brouthers, Hughie Jennings and Wilbert Robinson. Or for the first professional team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings of 1861-62, who played for two years without losing, ably led by that pair of pioneers, the Wright brothers—George and Harry.



**EARLY WYNN AND THE '54 INDIANS
HAD A STUPENDOUS SEASON BUT
STUMBLLED IN THE SERIES**



**THOUGH KOUFAX AND DRYSDALE WERE YANKEE-KILLERS FOR THE '63 DODGERS, THEY DIDN'T GET
THE CALL HERE**



We also gave serious consideration to the 1935 Pittsburgh Crawfords of the Negro leagues, who had an impressive five Hall of Famers: "Cool Papa" Bell, Satchel Paige, Oscar Charleston, Judy Johnson and Josh Gibson. The Crawfords, however, won the first half of the split season but lost the second to the New York Cubans.

There are surely some Yankeephiles out there who think we left out some fabulous pinstriped aggregations. To them we say, Don't be greedy. Four teams out of 20 is fair enough. If we added the '32 and '49 Yankees, as suggested by California Angel coach Jimmie Reese (who was a one-time roommate of Ruth's); and the '78 Yankees favored by Tebbetts; and the '41 Bronx Bombers that Hemond and Max Lanier liked; and the '51 Yankees Schoendienst voted for; and the '56 club Zimmer listed—well, that would leave room for just 10 other teams. The only franchise besides the Yankees to be represented more than once is the Athletics, in both their Philadelphia and Oakland incarnations.

As for the reasons why we chose the 20 we did, well, we trust they'll become clear as you read on. You'll also find that we have not presented the teams in random order. As if selecting the 20 greatest teams wasn't foolhardy enough an endeavor, we were also determined to rank them in order, starting with the '27 Yankees (surprise!) and ending with the Miracle Braves of '14. Feel free to rearrange them.

We'll tell you, though, how we arrived at our ranking. We held a sort of round-robin of the mind. It was late at night, but the sun was

shining. There was a buzz from the stands even though everybody had gone home. The office chair was a box seat, and *The Baseball Encyclopedia* was a scorecard. We mentally pitted one team against another, measuring them for hitting, pitching and heart. The desk was, if you will, our field of dreams.

John McGraw matched wits with Earl Weaver. Stan Musial grounded into a 6-4-3 double play, Tinker to Evers to Chance. Dizzy Dean and Whitey Ford traded goose eggs. Johnny Bench hit a long fly ball that Sam Rice caught as he disappeared into the sea of fans in right. Dennis Eckersley came in from the bullpen to face the rookie Joe DiMaggio. Young lefthander Babe Ruth made the Bambino look bad his first two times up, but then....

We lost track of the time. We weren't able to see every team play every other team, but we saw plenty of baseball, 100 years of it, in one night. Finally the ranking felt right. As we locked the office door and walked down the exit ramp onto the street, we thought of another team.

This one wasn't in *The Baseball Encyclopedia*, although it might have been in Cooperstown. It was just a team of boys with a rag ball and a stick. They laid out rudimentary bases in a field just outside of town, and they made up the game as they went along. Town ball they called it. One of the boys hit the ball, and some 150 years later, Dale Murphy settles under it. That team, the one that started this game, that was the greatest team of all.



AFTER A WORLD SERIES

HOME RUN, RUTH WAS
GREETED BY GEHRIG
(RIGHT). RUTH'S GLOVE
RESIDES IN THE HALL OF
FAME, A REMINDER OF
THAT SHINING SEASON

The Terrors of '27

With their Murderers' Row, these Yanks were frighteningly good

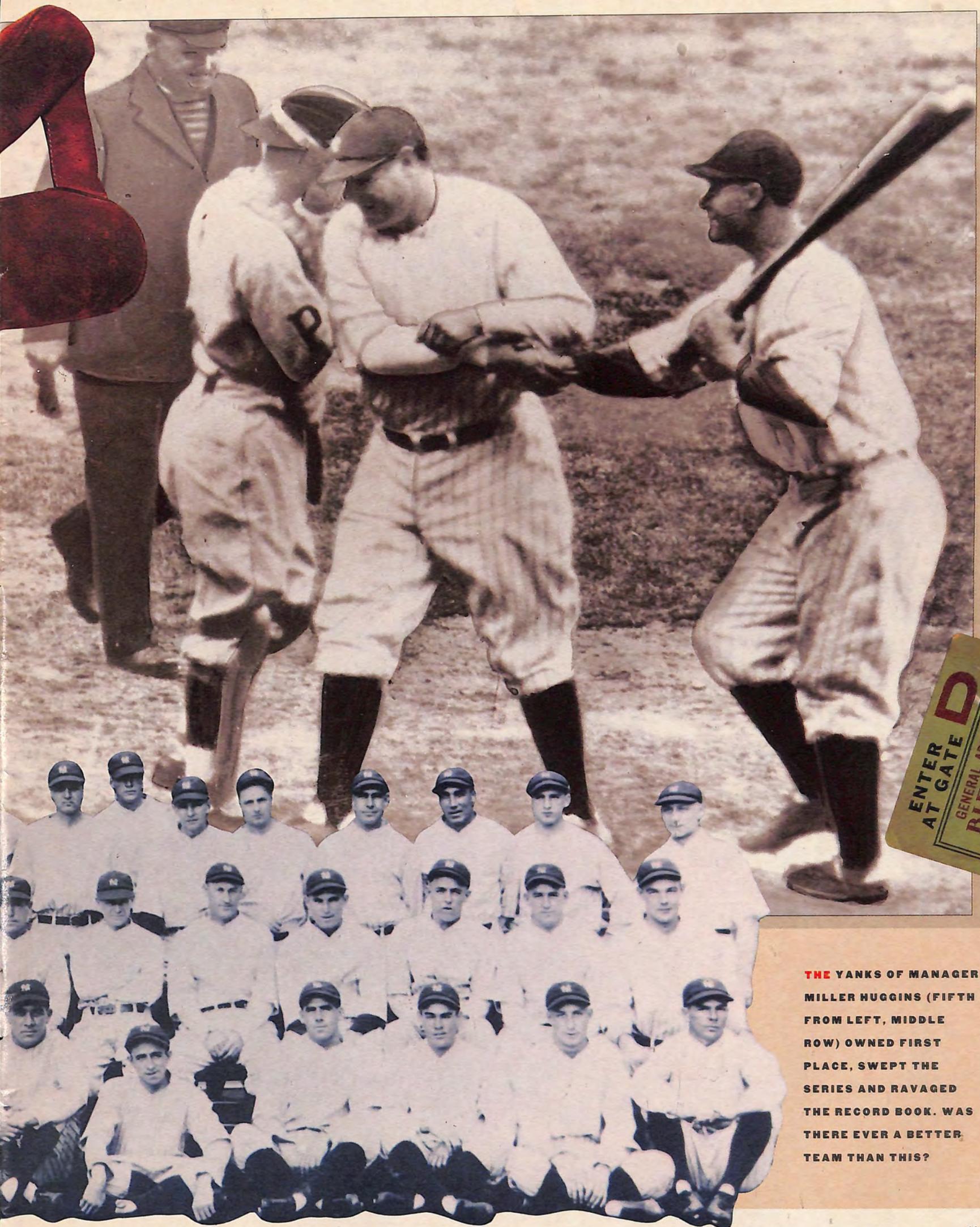
If the season had been a prizefight, the referee might have stopped it in an early round. The Yankees of '27, after all, held first place every day of the campaign. And given the presence of Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and the rest of the Yankee arsenal, one might assume that this team's monumental performance was a foregone conclusion. But before the season opened, there were no baseball experts advising the rest of the teams in the majors to take the summer off.

On March 30, Fred Lieb of the *New York Post* wrote, "The 1927 Yankees should be dangerous, but it is doubtful if their pitching strength is sufficient to send the club into another World Series." The preseason odds favored the Philadelphia Athletics, at 9-to-5, to win the American League pennant, with the Yankees at 3-to-1 and the Washington Senators close behind at 3 1/2-to-1.

Indeed, no one could have anticipated that so many Yankees would have such great seasons that year. Ruth hit 60 home runs, one more than the record 59 he had hit in 1921. Gehrig hit 47 homers and set a record for RBIs with 175. There was strength in the middle with centerfielder Earle Combs (who batted .356 and led the league in hits) and the young keystone combination of Mark Koenig and Tony Lazzeri. Ruth, Gehrig, Lazzeri, Combs and Bob Meusel were dubbed Murderers' Row; of the five, only Combs did not reach 100 RBIs.

It was pitching, though, that made this team all but unbeatable. Waite Hoyt led the league with 22 wins and had a 2.63 ERA. Herb Pennock, in his 15th season, was 19-8. The 37-year-old Urban

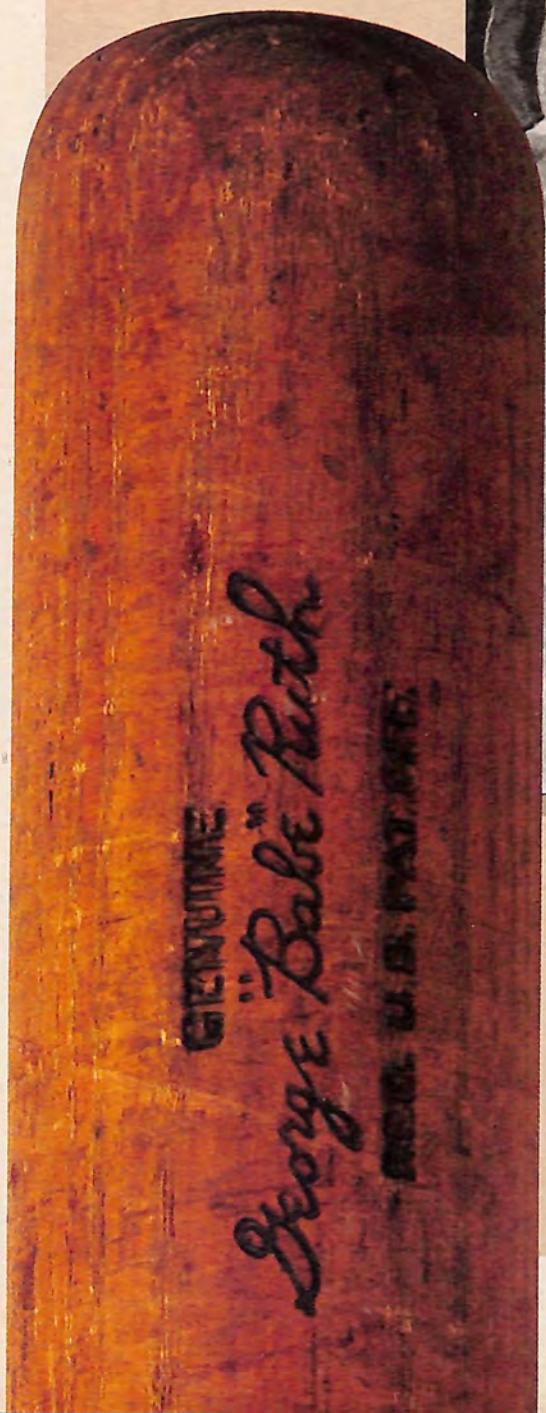


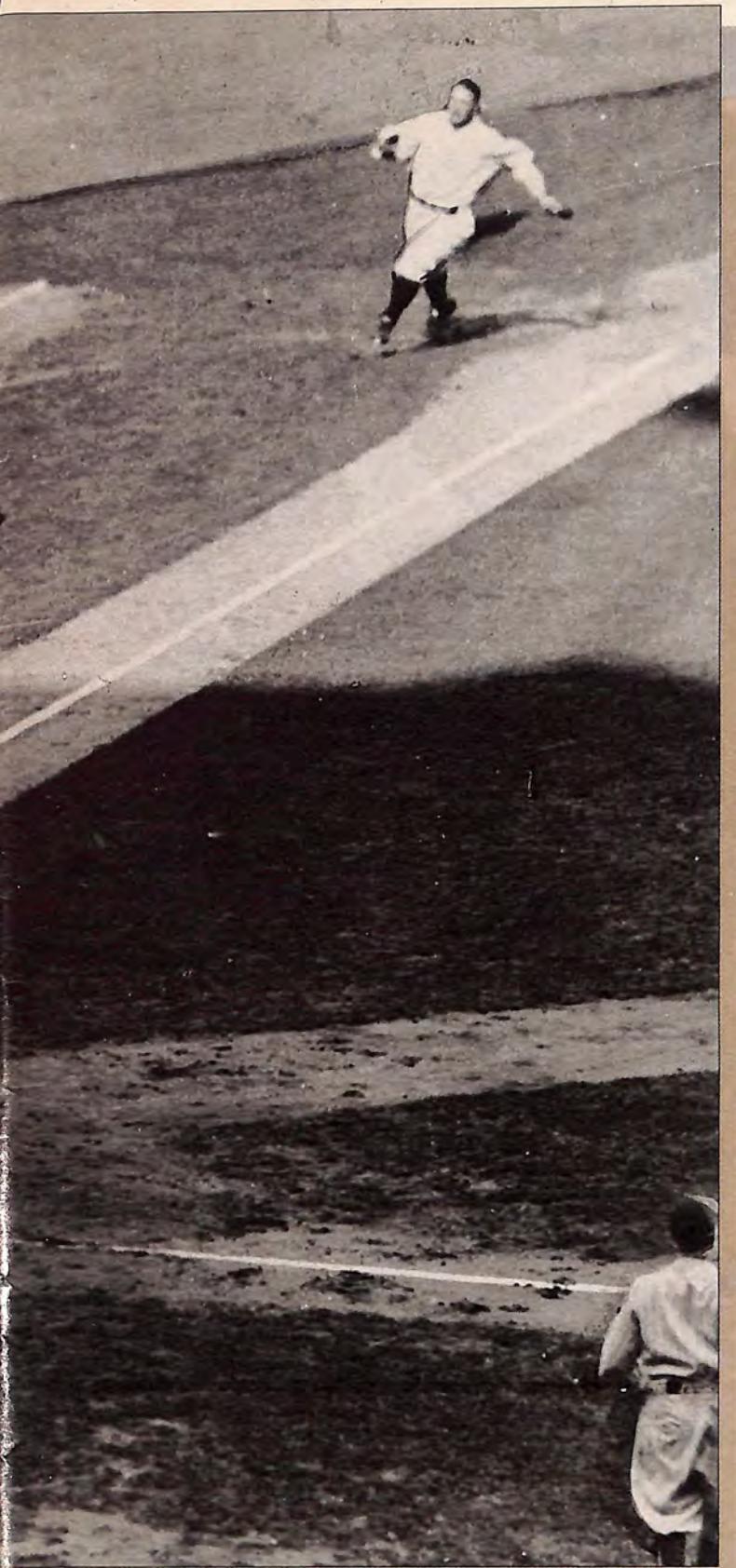


THE YANKS OF MANAGER MILLER HUGGINS (FIFTH FROM LEFT, MIDDLE ROW) OWNED FIRST PLACE, SWEEPED THE SERIES AND RAVAGED THE RECORD BOOK. WAS THERE EVER A BETTER TEAM THAN THIS?

THE
1927
YANKEES

RUTH SWUNG A 42-INCH
STICK, AND WITH IT HE
WHACKED A RECORD 60
BALLS OVER THE FENCE
IN '27. THE LAST ONE
LANDED IN COOPERSTOWN





IN GAME 3 OF THE
SERIES, GEHRIG'S
TRIPLE TO DEEP LEFT
CENTER SCORED COMBS
AND KOENIG. GEHRIG
(ROUNDING THIRD)
WAS OUT AT THE
PLATE TRYING FOR
A HOME RUN

Shocker, one of seven remaining legal spitballers, was 18-6. And Wilcy Moore, a 30-year-old rookie, went 19-7, with a league-leading 13 saves. Moore cashed in with his bat as well. Ruth bet Moore \$300 that the light-hitting pitcher wouldn't get more than three hits all season; he got six. With the money he won, Moore bought two mules for his Oklahoma farm. He named one Babe, the other Ruth.

The appellations were fitting. Before the '27 season began, the two-legged Ruth had proved stubborn as a mule. In February, while filming a movie called *Babe Comes Home*, Ruth rejected a contract for \$52,000, the same amount he had made annually from 1922 to '26, and he threatened to quit baseball if he wasn't given a two-year, \$200,000 contract. The club at first refused but on March 2 made a surprise offer: a three-year deal worth \$210,000. Ruth accepted and became the highest-paid man in baseball, surpassing commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis (\$65,000) and Ty Cobb (\$60,000).

Nobody doubted that Ruth, the game's greatest attraction, would be worth every penny. On July 4 the largest baseball crowd in history (74,000, 72,641 paid) saw a holiday doubleheader against Washington. The Senators rode a 10-game winning streak into the Bronx but hobbled out having lost 12-1 and 21-1. Afterward, Washington first baseman Joe Judge said, "Those fellows not only beat you, but they tear your heart out. I wish the season was over."

It might as well have been. Any remaining drama was not in the final score, but in the box score alongside HR. On Sept. 5, Gehrig hit his 44th home run, tying Ruth. The next day, Gehrig got another, but Ruth hit three. On Sept. 7, Ruth hit two more. With 17 games remaining, Ruth needed 10 to break his record.

In a doubleheader sweep on Sept. 13, Ruth hit numbers 51 and 52. The Yankees, incidentally, clinched the pennant. Ruth hit one in each game on Sept. 16, 18, 21 and 22. His 56th home run landed high in the rightfield bleachers and won the game in the ninth inning. Ruth must have liked the bat—he carried his lumber with him as he made his way around the bases. As the Babe touched third, a youngster came out of the stands and tried to talk the bat out of Ruth's hands. Failing at persuasion, the youth grabbed on to the club and went along for the ride, as Ruth dragged him across the plate.

Entering the final season series, against the Senators, Ruth was three homers short. He got two of them in the first game and narrowly missed two more. He had tied his own record. He now had two games to break it. The next day, against Tom Zachary, a tough screwballing lefty, Ruth walked on four pitches in the first, and the boos rained down on Zachary. The Babe singled twice, then came up in the eighth with one out and a man on third. He pulled the third pitch deep to right. The only question was if it would stay fair. The ball hooked toward the foul pole. Umpire Jim Dineen signaled fair. Ruth had done it.

"Sixty, count 'em, 60!" Ruth shouted in the locker room after the game. "Let's see some other s.o.b. match that." Ruth was unable to add to his own mark the next day, but the Yanks won their 110th game and established a record that would stand for 27 years.

Although the National League-champion Pittsburgh Pirates were an outstanding team, everyone, perhaps even the Pirates themselves, expected the World Series to be over quickly. After watching Ruth and Gehrig pound batting-practice balls over the fences at Forbes Field the day before the first game, the Pirates were reportedly stunned and demoralized. Whatever their state of mind, four games later they were World Series losers. The winning pitcher in the final game was the improbable Wilcy Moore—with help from a Ruth homer, of course.



THE 1961

NEW YORK YANKEES



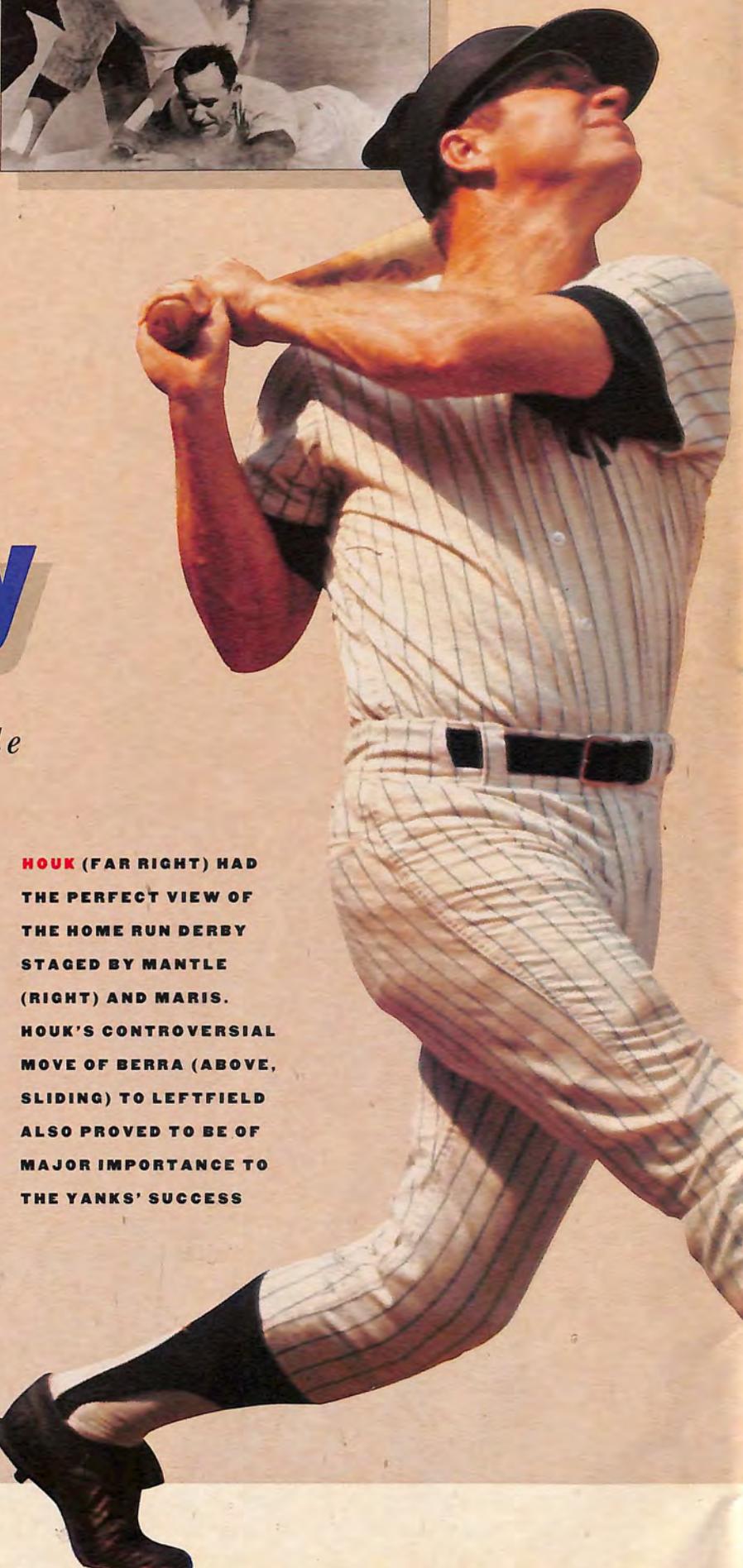
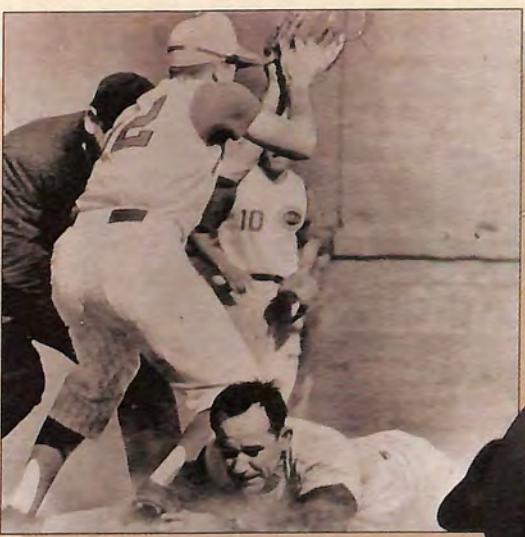
Power Play

Riding the blasts of the M&M Boys, new manager Ralph Houk bagged a title

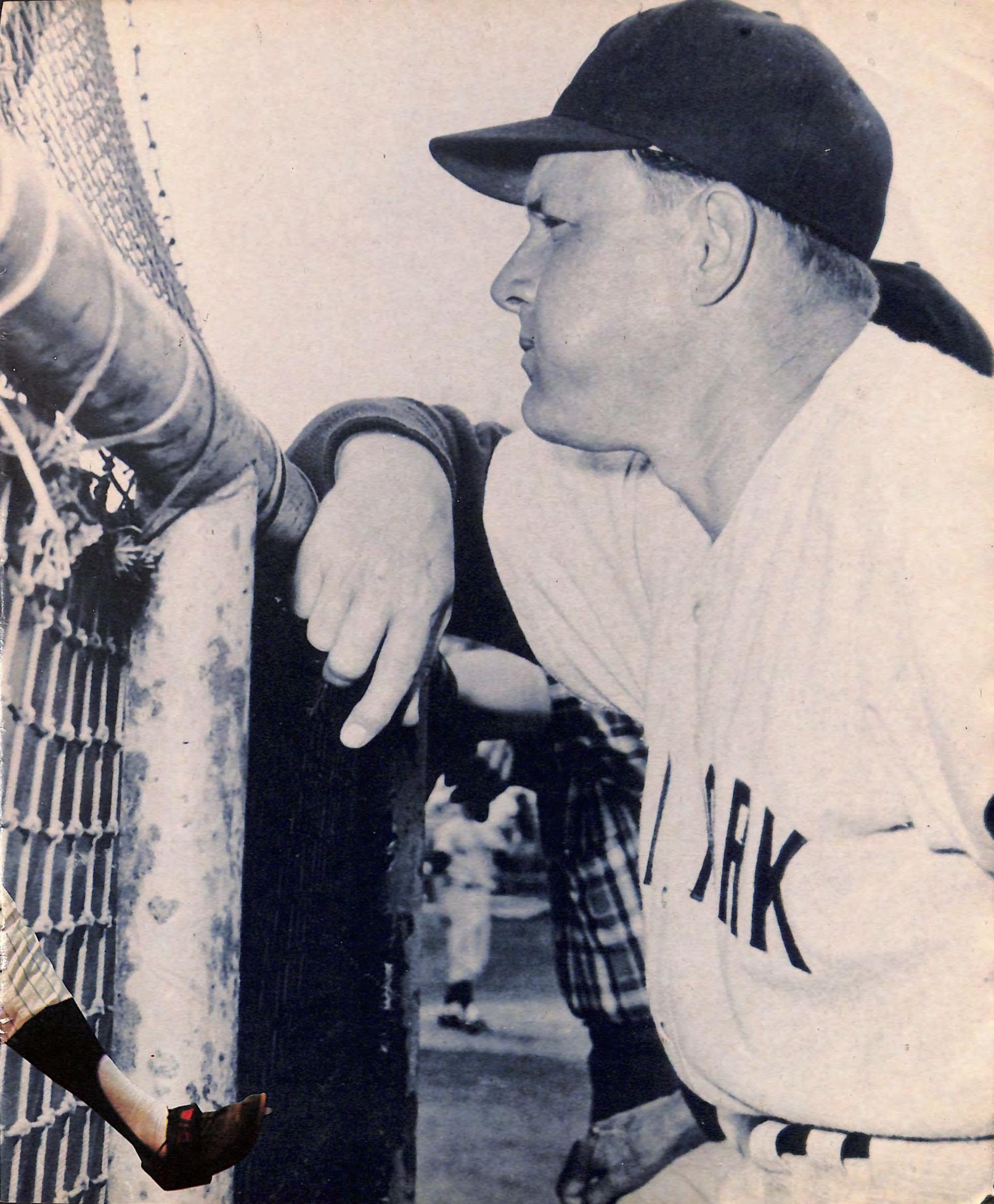
Sixty-one. It came on a belt-high fastball from a 24-year-old righthanded rookie named Tracy Stallard. "I hit the ball with a 35-inch bat that weighed 33 ounces," said Roger Maris of his record-breaking home run, a shot into the rightfield stands on Oct. 1, the last day of the regular season. There was no doubt from the moment the ball met the bat that it would reach the seats. That was 61.

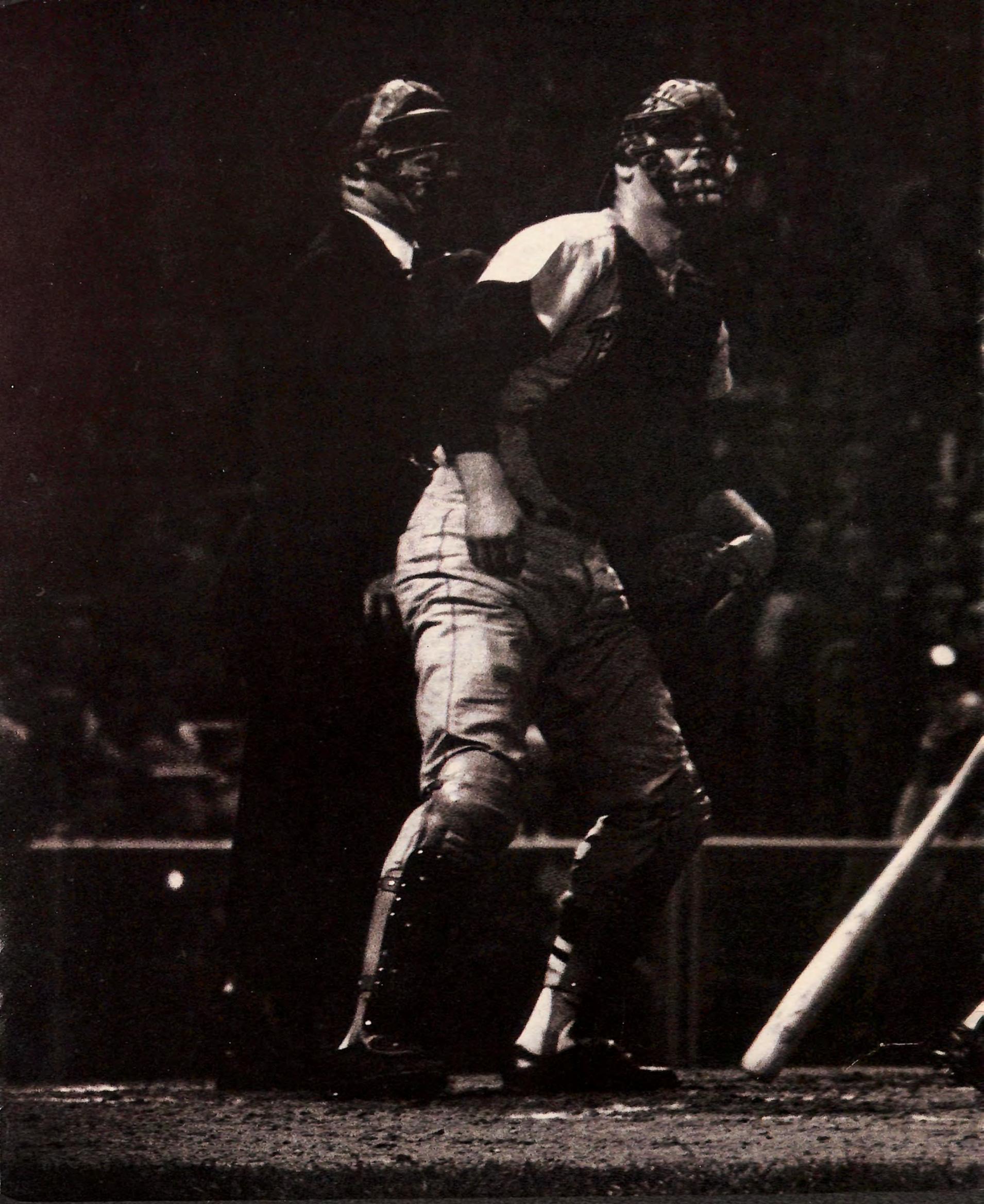
A month earlier the Yankees had opened a three-game series with second-place Detroit at Yankee Stadium. The Tigers trailed the Yankees by a game and a half. "If someone had told me early this spring that Maris would have 50 home runs, Mickey Mantle close to 50, and Whitey Ford would have 20 wins, I would have bet you that the Yankees would be leading the league by 25 games," said Detroit manager Bob Scheffing before the three-game showdown. Scheffing spoke too soon. A week after being swept by the Yanks, his Tigers were 11½ games back. An exciting pennant race had vanished into the September air. That was the year the Tigers' 101 wins still left them eight games behind the Yankees. That was '61.

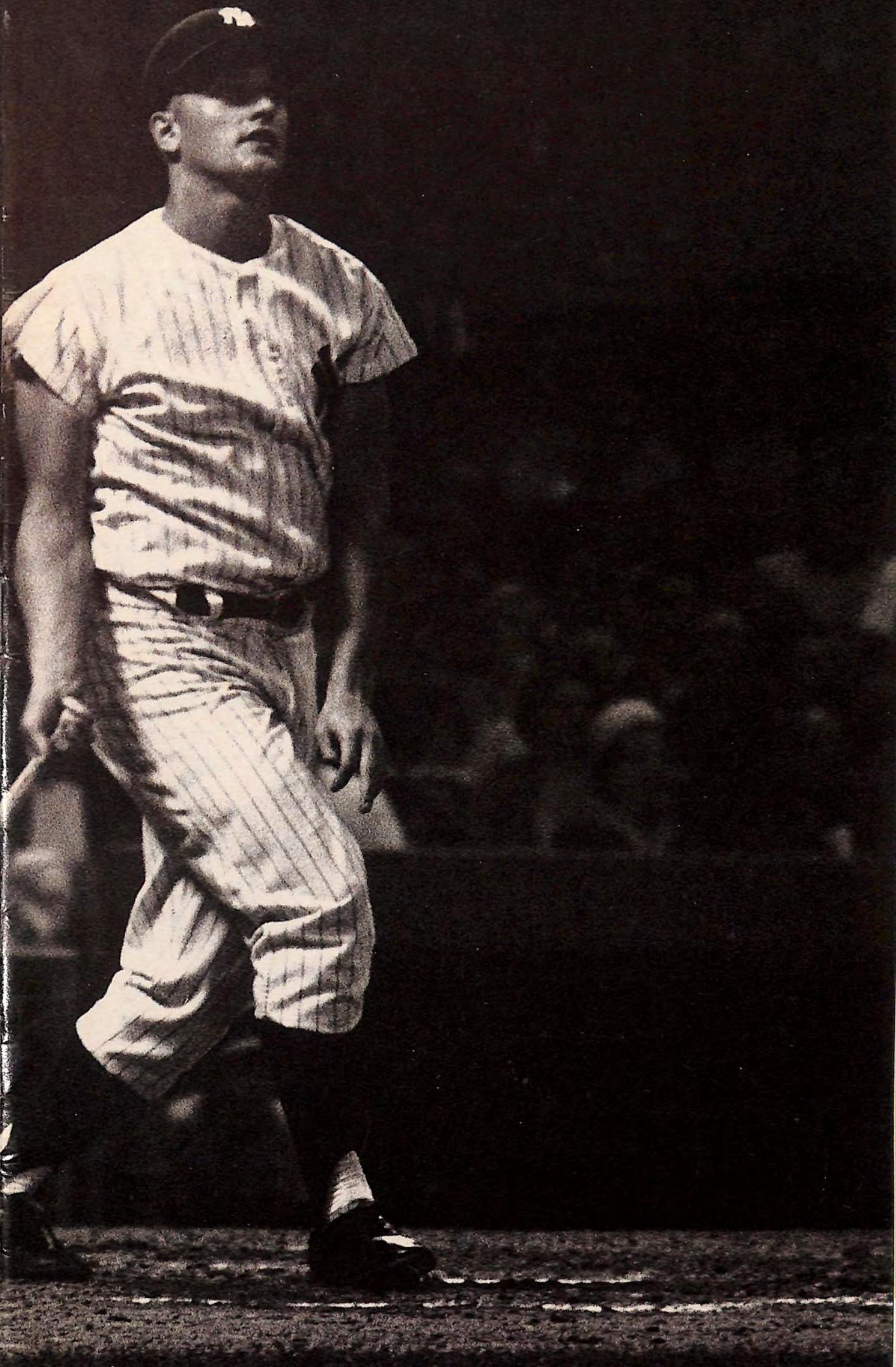
The 1961 Yankees will always be remembered for the long-ball heroics of Maris and Mantle, the M&M Boys. Their chase of Babe Ruth's single-season home run record so captivated the nation that even the flimsiest of fans found themselves checking the box scores in the morning paper before reading the front page. Maris, of course,



HOUK (FAR RIGHT) HAD THE PERFECT VIEW OF THE HOME RUN DERBY STAGED BY MANTLE (RIGHT) AND MARIS. HOUK'S CONTROVERSIAL MOVE OF BERRA (ABOVE, SLIDING) TO LEFTFIELD ALSO PROVED TO BE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO THE YANKS' SUCCESS





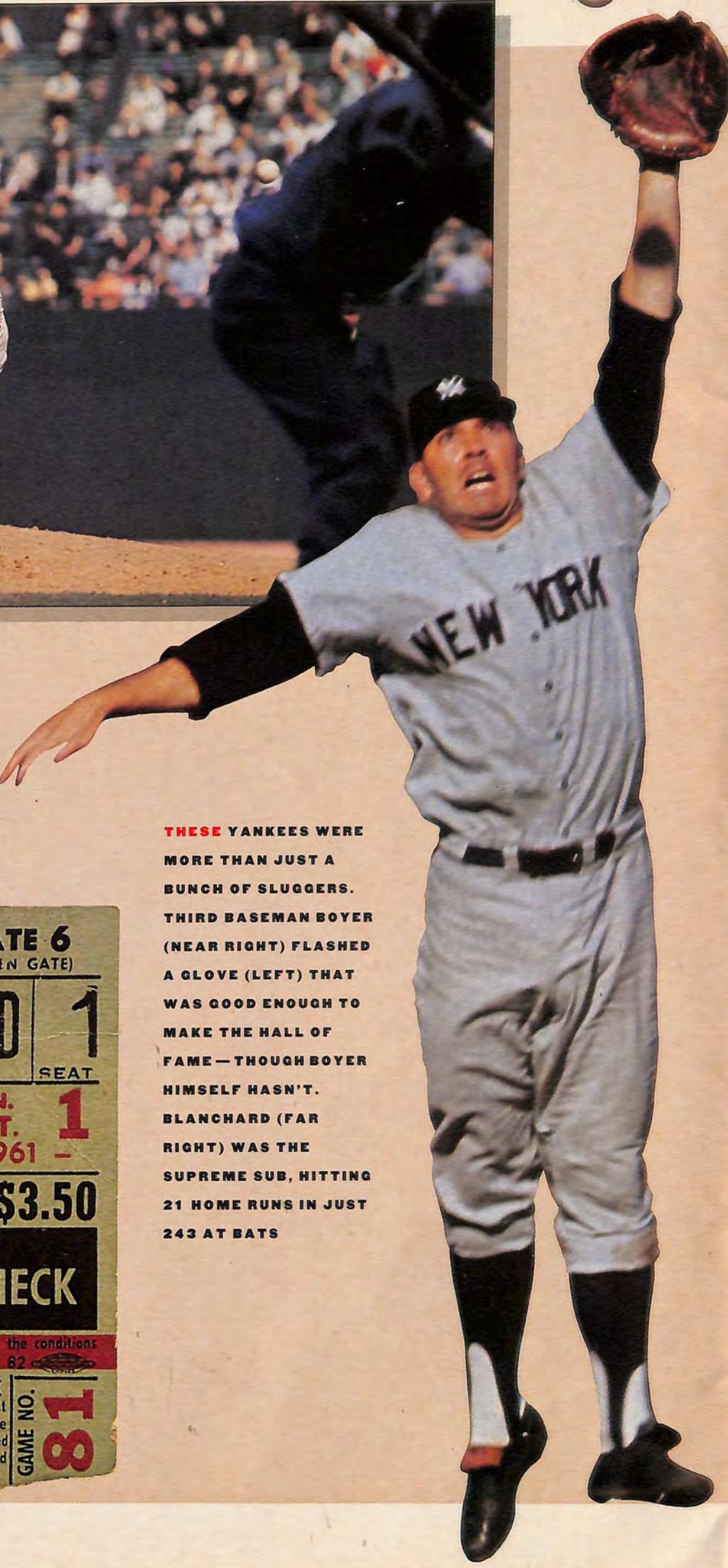
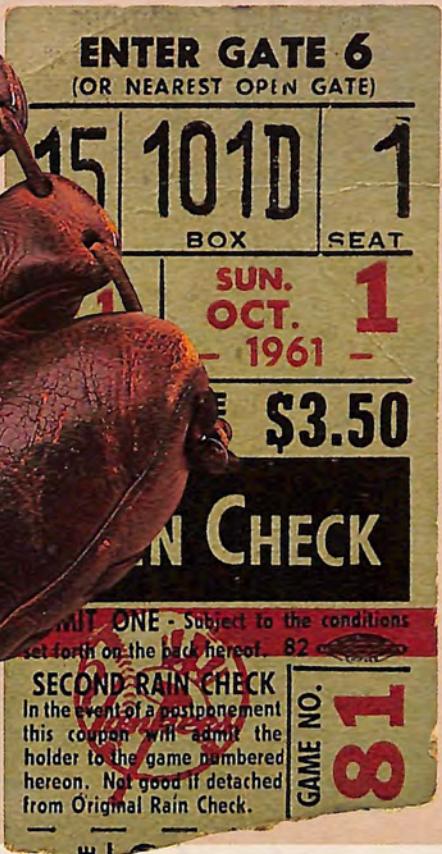


THE
1961
YANKEES

MARIS, ALONG WITH
ORIOLE CATCHER GUS
TRIANDOS, WATCHED
HIS LONG FLY BALL
TRAVEL DOWN THE
RIGHTFIELD LINE IN
YANKEE STADIUM ON
SEPT. 26. IT LANDED IN
THE THIRD DECK, JUST
FAIR, FOR RECORD-
TYING HOME RUN
NUMBER 60

THE
1961
YANKEES

BECAUSE FORD PITCHED
EVERY FOURTH DAY,
THE YANKS WON
ALMOST EVERY FOURTH
DAY. WHITEY'S RECORD
WAS 25-4, AND THE
TEAM'S WINNING
PERCENTAGE IN GAMES
HE STARTED WAS .872



THESE YANKEES WERE
MORE THAN JUST A
BUNCH OF SLUGGERS.
THIRD BASEMAN BOYER
(NEAR RIGHT) FLASHED
A GLOVE (LEFT) THAT
WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO
MAKE THE HALL OF
FAME — THOUGH BOYER
HIMSELF HASN'T.
BLANCHARD (FAR
RIGHT) WAS THE
SUPREME SUB, HITTING
21 HOME RUNS IN JUST
243 AT BATS

achieved the magic 61, while Mantle, slowed by an injury late in the year, checked in with a mere 54. They remain the only teammates in history to hit 50-plus homers in the same season.

The Yankee power didn't stop at Maris and Mantle. Behind them in the lineup were four other players who belted 20 or more home runs: first baseman Moose Skowron (28), leftfielder Yogi Berra (22) and catchers Elston Howard and Johnny Blanchard (21 apiece). When the final damage was assessed, the '61 Yanks crashed 240 round-trippers, topping the old major league mark by 19. The record still stands.

Just as these Yankees could pound an opponent with the long ball, they could also win games with pitching, defense or guile. They were an awesome amalgamation of elements from the great Yankee clubs that had preceded them, combining the power of Miller Huggins's teams in the late '20s, the steadiness of Joe McCarthy's clubs in the '40s and the resourcefulness of the Casey Stengel-led teams of the '50s. The beneficiary of all these good things was a first-year manager named Ralph Houk.

Houk had been named as successor to the legendary Stengel less than a week after the Yanks lost the 1960 World Series to the Pittsburgh Pirates. At the press conference to announce his "retirement," the venerable skipper said, "I'll never make the mistake of being 70 again." Rumors had been circulating for three years that owners Dan Topping and Del Webb were looking for a reason to dump Stengel, and when the Yanks lost the Series, he was a goner.

The 41-year-old Houk, a former catcher, had been groomed by the Yankees to be Stengel's successor; he was a young manager well versed in the teachings of the old school. Houk wasn't out to win any popularity contests with the media or the fans. The "Major," as he was called because of his Army experience in World War II, wanted

only to win a World Series. "I'm not another Casey," Houk said in spring training. "I won't talk like him or act like him."

While Stengel had an affinity for platooning players and making late-inning defensive switches, Houk decided early on that his club would have a set lineup. His infield would consist of the acrobatic Clete Boyer at third, Gold Gloves Tony Kubek and Bobby Richardson at short and second, respectively, and Skowron at first. In the outfield Houk had Maris in right, Mantle in center and Berra in left.

Some scoffed at Houk's decision to make 36-year-old catcher Berra his leftfielder, but the Major knew that the move was the only way to get at bats for both Howard and Blanchard. It worked. Howard, an outstanding receiver and thrower, hit .348 as the regular backstop, and Yogi (who had originally come up with the Yanks as an outfielder) was more than adequate in left. Blanchard, who was Houk's best lefthanded pinch hitter, also caught 42 games.

Houk's smartest decision, though, was to give Whitey Ford the ball every fourth day. The lefthander, who had often been given extra rest or held back to pitch against certain opponents by Stengel, responded to his new regimen by going 25-4 and winning the Cy Young Award.

Despite a sensational season, the flag wasn't in the bag until the Yanks shook off the tenacious Tigers in their September series. "Everybody thinks we won the pennant easy," said Houk, "but that's when it happened—within a week, boom!"

Scheffing and the Tigers could find some solace in the fact that they were New York's only real competition. The World Series was a five-game cakewalk over Cincinnati, with the Yankees winning the final two games by scores of 7-0 and 13-5. "We got the hell kicked out of us," said Reds manager Fred Hutchinson.

That was '61.





1905

NEW YORK GIANTS



Bad Boys

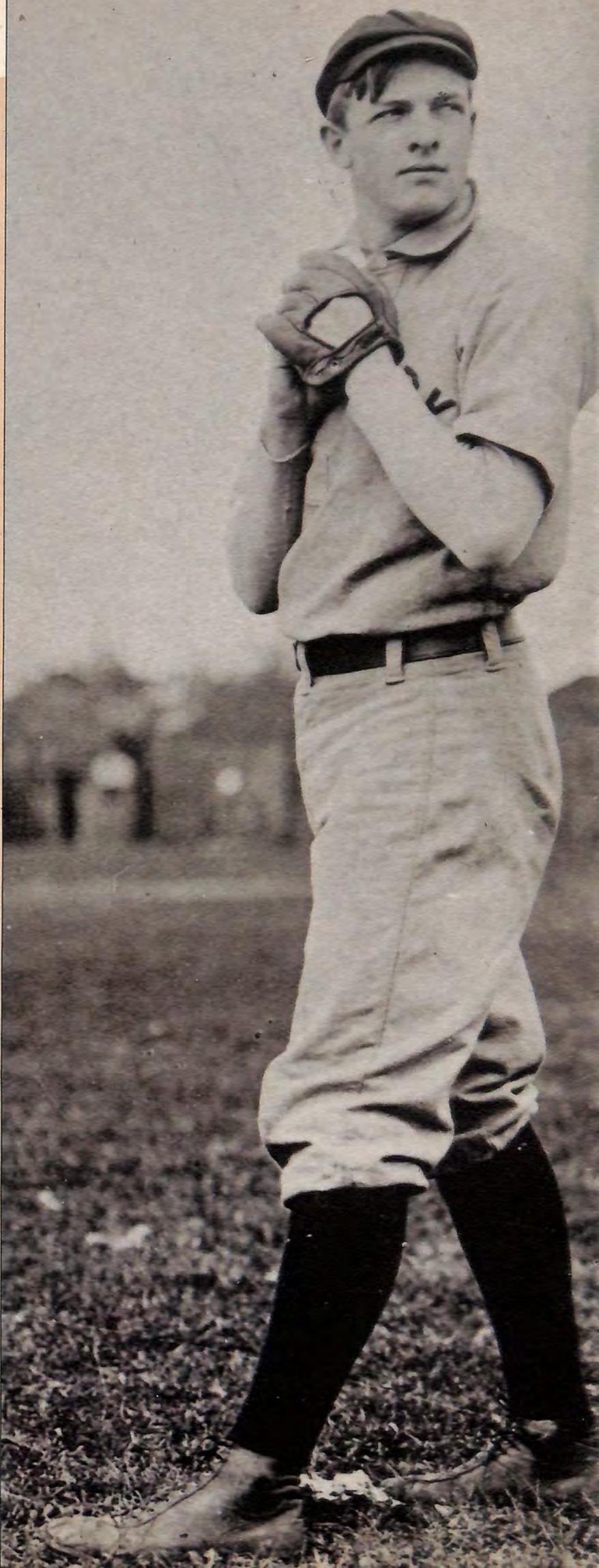
John McGraw's pugnacious Giants bragged loudly, then backed it up

John McGraw was a showman and strategist from the old school. As a manager he could be spiteful, gentlemanly, belligerent or gregarious, and during the rollicking season of 1905 McGraw was all of the above. And above all he was never, ever dull.

In the middle of the 1902 season McGraw had jumped from the American League and signed to manage the New York Giants. He quickly gutted his former team, raiding the roster of the Baltimore Orioles for six players, including catcher Roger Bresnahan and pitcher "Iron Man" Joe McGinnity. Just as quickly, he planted 23-year-old Christy Mathewson on the pitcher's mound for good, putting a stop to all attempts to play him at first base or in the outfield.

The Giants rose to second place in the National League in 1903, finishing behind the Pittsburgh Pirates, who lost to Boston in the first "World Series." McGraw's club then blew away the competition to win the 1904 pennant by 13 games. But team owner John T. Brush contemptuously refused to allow the Giants to play the American League-champion Boston Pilgrims after the season. Baseball's rule makers responded by making championship participation mandatory, and established that the World Series would resume the following year as an annual best-of-seven affair. McGraw was determined his Giants would get there in '05.

As an amateur psychologist McGraw was ahead of his time. He rode





THE ARM OF
MATHEWSON (LEFT)
WON 31 GAMES, THEN
ZIPPED THREE
SHUTOUTS IN THE
WORLD SERIES. THE BAT
OF BRESNAHAN BANGED
OUT A .302 AVERAGE
FOR THE SEASON,
.313 FOR THE SERIES.
THE MIND OF MCGRRAW
MADE CERTAIN THAT
HIS TALENTED TEAM
WON IT ALL

his players constantly to keep them motivated. Molded in the image of their manager, the Giants became the much-despised bullies of the National League, swaggering into town and enraging the opposition's players and fans. Fistfights were not infrequent.

McGraw saved his choicest invectives for umpires ("thieves") and the second-place Pirates ("quitters"). He howled at Pittsburgh players and at manager Fred Clarke. Before a game at New York's Polo Grounds, McGraw even climbed into the stands to berate Barney Dreyfuss, the Pirates' owner. Dreyfuss complained to league president Harry Pulliam, who fined McGraw \$150 and suspended him for 15 days. McGraw went to court and had the punishment overturned.

Dreyfuss wasn't the only owner McGraw verbally assaulted. During one game, Brooklyn's Charlie Ebbets, sitting in a front-row box, was stunned by what he thought he had heard McGraw say to him. "Did you call me a bastard?" Ebbets retorted, standing up. "No," McGraw shot back. "I called you a son of a bitch."

While McGraw hogged the headlines, his magnificent team moved into first place on April 23 and stayed there the rest of the year. They kept the Pirates at bay, knocking them out in late September. The 1905 Giants finished 105-48 (.686), nine games ahead of the pack, and led the league in batting average (.273), doubles (191), stolen bases (291) and home runs (all of 39—they were playing in the dead-ball era).

The Giants' was a roster rich in colorful personalities. Centerfielder and leading hitter "Turkey" Mike Donlin was nicknamed for the way he strutted onto the field. Cincinnati had tried to waive him out of the league the previous year because of his penchant for partying. McGraw claimed Donlin on waivers, let him close down as many bars as he wanted, and the result was a .356 batting average. "Bad Bill" Dahlen, a shortstop as pugnacious as McGraw, anchored the infield. (Attention trivia buffs and *Field of Dreams* fans: This was also the team for which the real Moonlight Graham played one game. He did not get an at bat.)

The workhorse pitching staff, headed by Mathewson (31-8, 1.27), McGinnity (21-15, 2.87) and Red Ames (22-8, 2.74), had a combined ERA of 2.39 and 760 strikeouts, 133 better than the next-highest team total. And pitching would prove to be the story of a most unusual World Series.

McGraw threw down the gauntlet before the Series. He told the world that his Giants were even better than the National League-champion Orioles of 1894-96, for whom he had played third base. To make good on their manager's boast, the Giants would have to beat the American League-champion Philadelphia Athletics, a franchise McGraw had derided a few years earlier as a "white elephant." The A's made the pale pachyderm part of their insignia. For the Series, McGraw ordered black uniforms for his Giants.

New York won the best-of-seven series 4-1. All five games were shutouts, a record that still stands. Mathewson pitched a four-hitter in Game 1, then McGinnity lost a 3-0 decision to the A's Chief Bender. After the teams took a day off, Mathewson hurled another four-hitter. McGinnity won a 1-0 thriller over Philly's Eddie Plank in Game 4. McGraw then called on Mathewson again; with only one day's rest, Matty pitched a third complete-game shutout, winning 2-0 on six hits.

McGraw managed major league teams for 33 years, winning 10 pennants and three World Series, but to the end he maintained that the 1905 Giants team was his favorite. "For its smartness," he wrote in his book, *My Thirty Years in Baseball*.

And the pitching, Mac. Don't forget the pitching. ■



NEW YORK YANKEES



Ruthless

With the Babe gone, a new Yankee dynasty began

With the release of the 39-year-old Babe Ruth after the 1934 season, the first great era in New York Yankee history came to a stumbling end. The Yankees had finished second in '33 and '34, and, without Ruth, they would be runners-up again in '35, coming in three games behind the Detroit Tigers. The unfamiliar string of frustration was to end, however, in '36, knocked into mere memory by a Yankee team that, sparked by the arrival of 21-year-old rookie Joe DiMaggio, inaugurated the second great era of Yankee-dom.

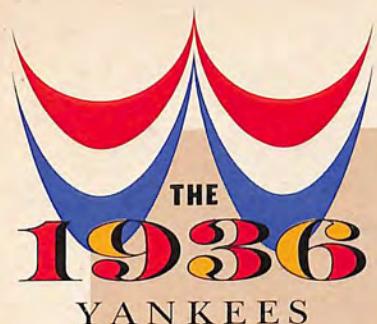
Manager Joe McCarthy had assumed command of the Yanks in 1931 after taking a Cub team that finished last in 1925 and rebuilding it into a 1929 pennant winner. But he was fired by Chicago a year later and was soon summoned to the Bronx for another reconstruction project. A brilliant and businesslike skipper, McCarthy spent his first years in pinstripes wrestling with the declining and often troublesome Ruth. At the same time, though, he was assembling a team that would dominate the game. McCarthy would ultimately manage his way into the Hall of Fame, and his '36 Yankees included five players—Lou Gehrig, Bill Dickey, Lefty Gomez, Red Ruffing and DiMaggio—who would join him in Cooperstown.

What made the '36 team so dazzling—and no doubt so demoralizing to opponents—was that virtually every player in the lineup had a banner year. At first base, of course, was Gehrig. The Iron Horse, out from under the shadow of Ruth, produced one of his finest seasons at the age of 33, hitting a career-high 49 homers and driving in 152

THE SPRING OF 1936
BROUGHT A NEW
FLOWERING OF POWER
IN THE BRONX AS (FROM
LEFT) DICKEY, GEHRIG,
DIMAGGIO AND LAZZERI
LED THE YANKS TO THE
TITLE AFTER A THREE-
YEAR DROUGHT. THIS
TEAM SET IN MOTION A
YANKEE JUGGERNAUT
THAT WOULD WIN 12
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
IN 18 SEASONS







THE

1936

YANKEES

**IN GAME 1, TWO MVPS
MET WHEN HUBBELL
FACED GEHRIG. THE
FIRST BATTLE WAS
WON BY HUBBELL ON A
PUTOUT AT FIRST.
GEHRIG WON THE WAR**



runs while batting .354; he was a shoo-in as the league's MVP. Gehrig's roomie and close friend, Dickey, had his own superb season, hitting a lifetime high of .362, with 22 home runs and 107 RBIs, while confirming his stature as one of the great catchers in the game. Veteran Tony Lazzeri, a holdover from the famed '27 Yankees, was at second. For Poosh-'Em-Up Tony it would be his next-to-last year in pinstripes, and he made it a big one: 107 RBIs, 82 runs. Even weak-hitting shortstop Frankie Crosetti came up with a .288 average.

A first glance at the pitching staff's 4.17 earned run average for the season might suggest that this was a team that lived by its bats—but 4.17 led the American League in '36. The Yank ace was righthander Ruffing. In six seasons with the Boston Red Sox, from '24 through '29, Ruffing had never had a winning record; he lost 25 games in 1928 and 22 the following year, before the Sox traded him to the Yankees early in the 1930 season. There must have been something about the Bronx air that agreed with him: Ruffing went 15-5 for the Yanks over the rest of the '30 season and never looked back. By 1936 he was at his peak, going 20-12.

The team's top lefty, of course, was Lefty. Though no longer as overpowering as he had once been, the 27-year-old Gomez could still fool 'em with a big slow curveball—and still crack 'em up with his notorious wit. Gomez rather inexplicably became a good friend to the team's shy, quiet rookie outfielder from California. "I'm responsible for Joe DiMaggio's success," Gomez once said. "They never knew how he could go back on a ball until I pitched."

It didn't take long for everyone to realize that DiMaggio could do that and a lot more. He missed the first 17 games of the season



because of a foot injury, but once installed in Yankee Stadium's vast centerfield, DiMaggio took off on one of the greatest rookie seasons ever, hitting .323, with 29 home runs and 125 RBIs. "You saw him standing there and you knew you had a pretty damn good chance to win the baseball game," Ruffing would say.

And win these Yankees did—102 times, to be exact. They finished the season 19½ games ahead of Detroit, assuring themselves the pennant on Sept. 9, the earliest clinching date in American League history. It was an all-New York World Series—the first Subway Series since 1923—as the Giants emerged from a three-way struggle with the Cubs and the Cardinals to capture the National League flag.

The Giants took the opener, at the Polo Grounds, 6-1 behind lefthander and National League MVP Carl Hubbell, who held the Yanks to just seven hits. The Yankees responded with a vengeance in Game 2, winning 18-4 as Lazzeri "pooshed" them to victory with a third-inning grand slam, only the second in Series history.

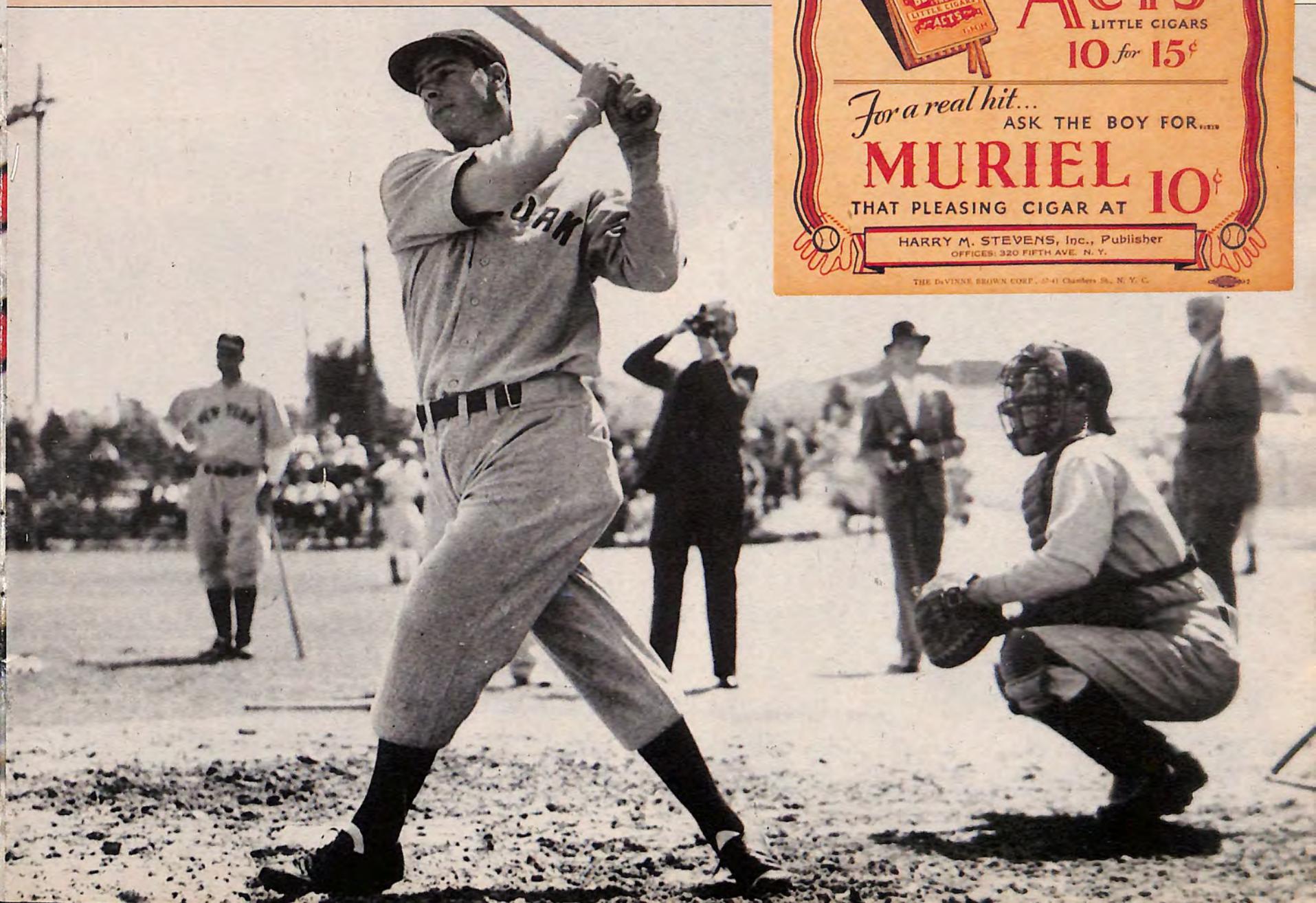
Back in Yankee Stadium for Game 3, the home team won when pitchers Bump Hadley and Pat Malone combined for a 2-1 victory. The next day, the Yankees finally touched Hubbell, scoring four runs in the first three innings—the big blow was a two-run homer by Gehrig—and going on to win 5-2. A 5-4, 10th-inning win in Game 5 kept the Giants alive, but there would be no denying McCarthy's team as the Yanks romped to a 17-hit, 13-5 title clincher behind Gomez.

The following season, the Yankees would pick up where they had left off. In the next seven seasons the new Bronx Bombers would take six pennants and win five more World Series. The DiMaggio era came into full bloom.

LAZZERI (LEFT) WAS A
HOLDOVER FROM THE
'27 YANKS OF RUTH.
GOMEZ (RIGHT) WOULD
ENJOY THREE MORE
WORLD SERIES
TRIUMPHS WITH THE
YANKS OF DIMAGGIO



THE YOUNG DIMAGGIO
QUICKLY BECAME A
FOCUS OF ATTENTION
BY FILLING YANKEE
SCORECARDS WITH
ROOKIE NUMBERS THAT
ADDED UP TO 29 HOME
RUNS AND 125 RBIS



YANKEES (OPENING DAY) vs. BOSTON 8

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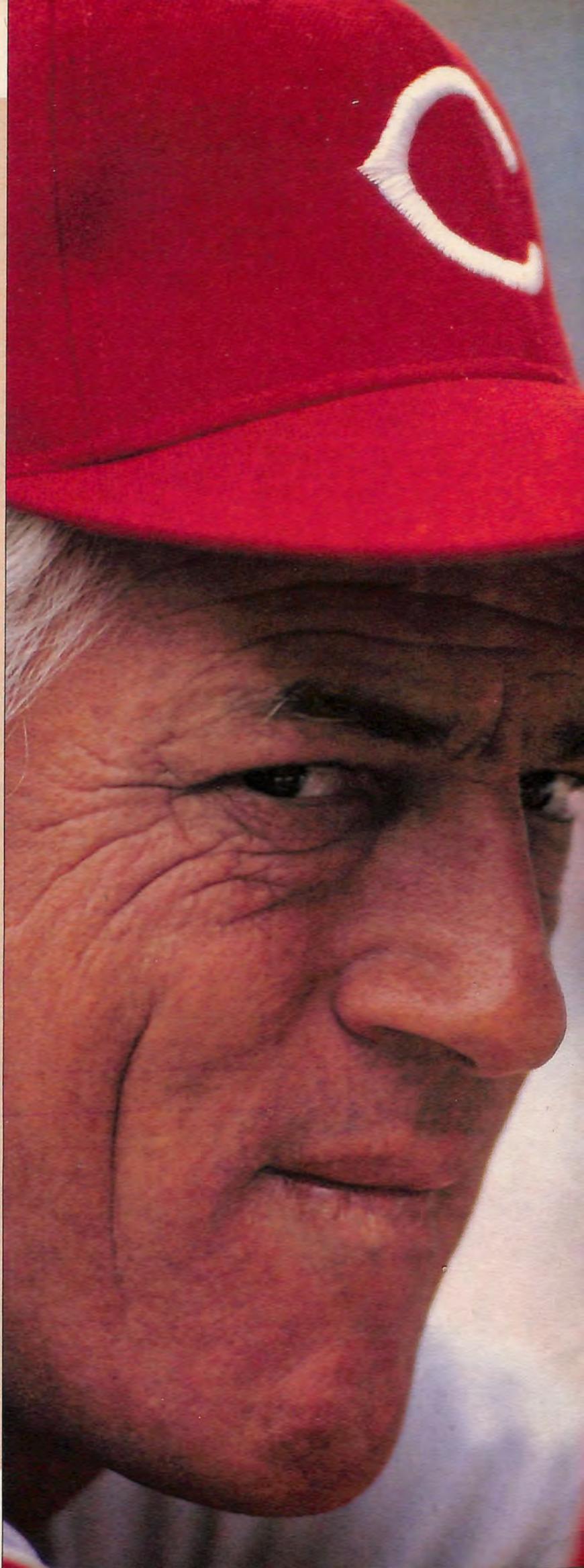
Big Red

The Cincinnati machine flattened opponents under a ton of talent

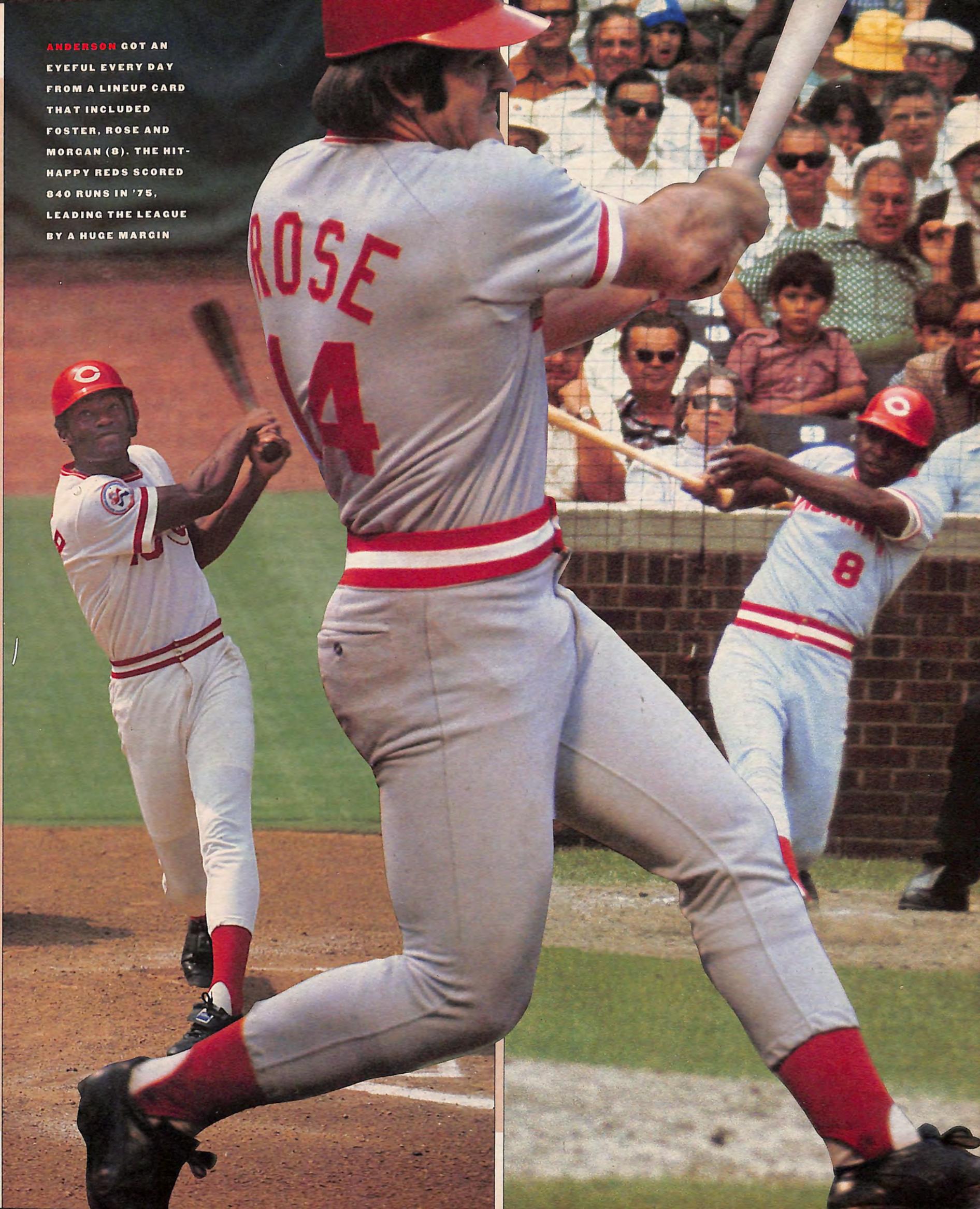
The Big Red Machine of 1975 had all the workable parts for greatness, save one—starting pitching. There was no Dizzy Dean, Lefty Grove or Catfish Hunter on this nondescript staff, only Gary Nolan, Jack Billingham and Fred Norman. Manager Sparky Anderson did have one starter with brilliant potential, but the injury-prone lefty Don Gullett was never able to fulfill it. Still, Gullett was Sparky's ace in '75, leading the staff with a 2.42 ERA and matching Nolan and Billingham with 15 wins.

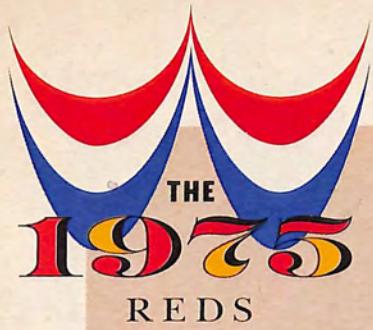
But Anderson wasn't dubbed Captain Hook without reason. The Reds, in winning 108 games, got only 22 complete games from their starters, a major league low that season. But Cincinnati led the big leagues with 50 saves, an extraordinary number at the time. Anderson had a bullpen crew of durable workmen in righthanders Pedro Borbon, Rawly Eastwick and Clay Carroll and lefty Will McEnaney—each of whom appeared in more than 50 games.

But who needed much pitching anyway, with the lineup, now legendary, that Sparky penciled in each day? Few teams in baseball history can match the Reds' first five hitters—Pete Rose, Joe Morgan, Johnny Bench, Tony Perez, George Foster—for power, speed and consistency. And who needed a staff of aces, the way this team played defense? Bench was the best catcher in the game at the time, Morgan the best second baseman, Dave Concepcion a brilliant shortstop and

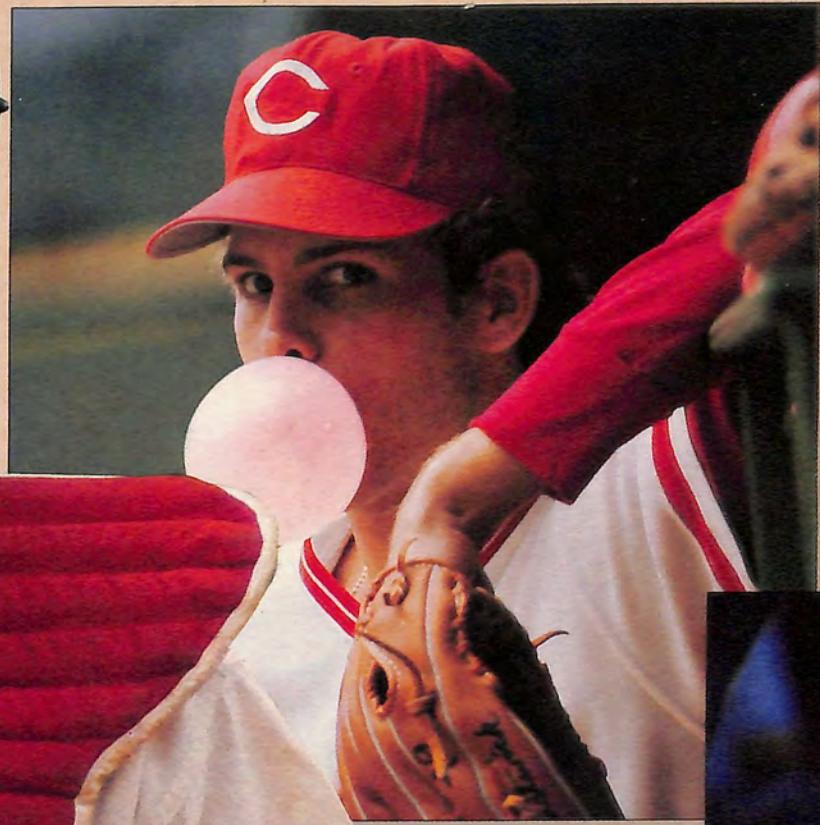
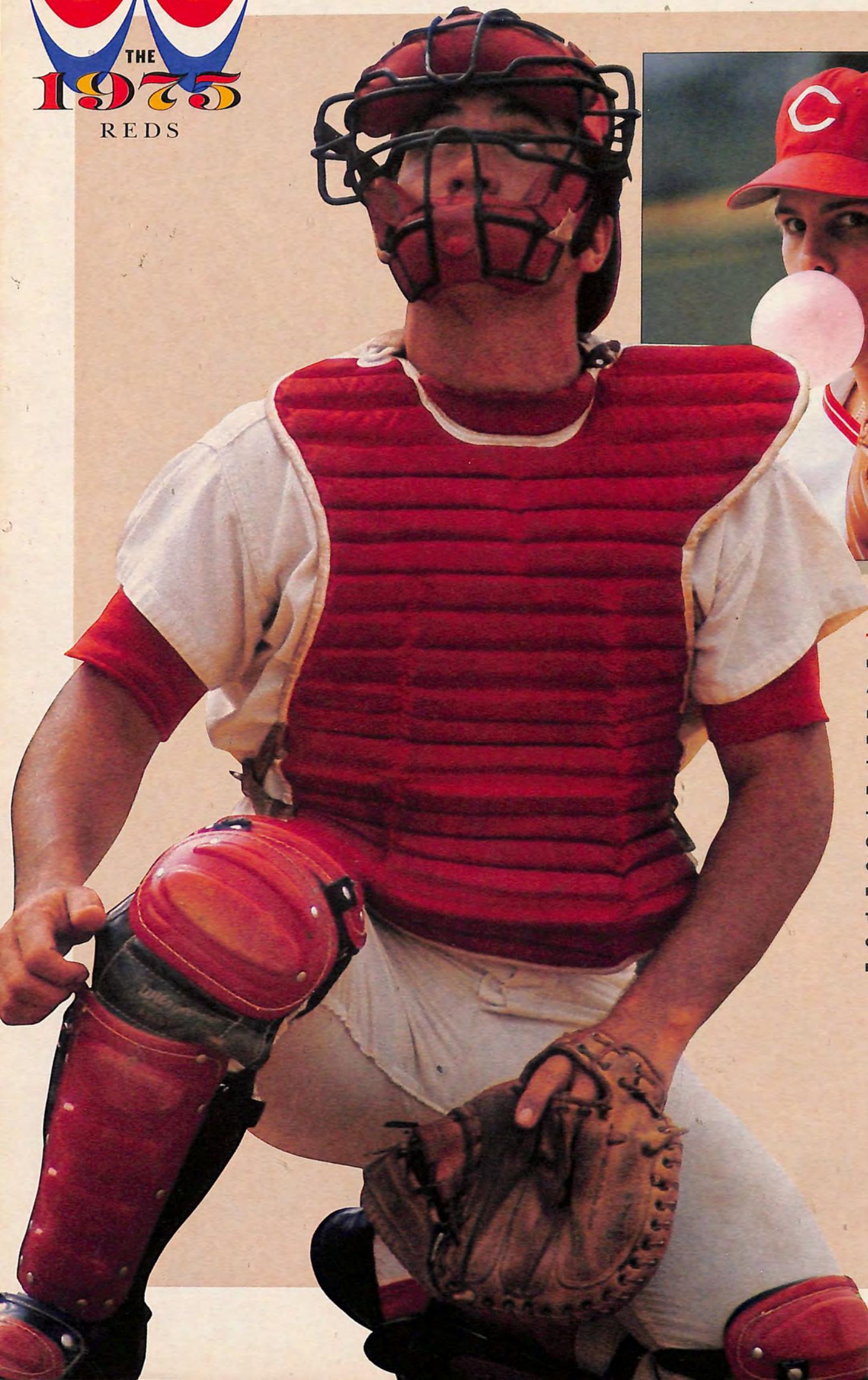


ANDERSON GOT AN
EYEFUL EVERY DAY
FROM A LINEUP CARD
THAT INCLUDED
FOSTER, ROSE AND
MORGAN (8). THE HIT-
HAPPY REDS SCORED
840 RUNS IN '75,
LEADING THE LEAGUE
BY A HUGE MARGIN





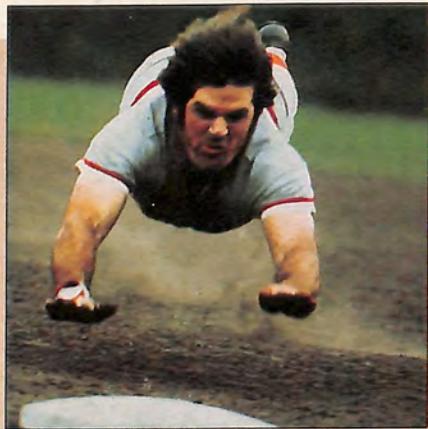
THE
1975
REDS



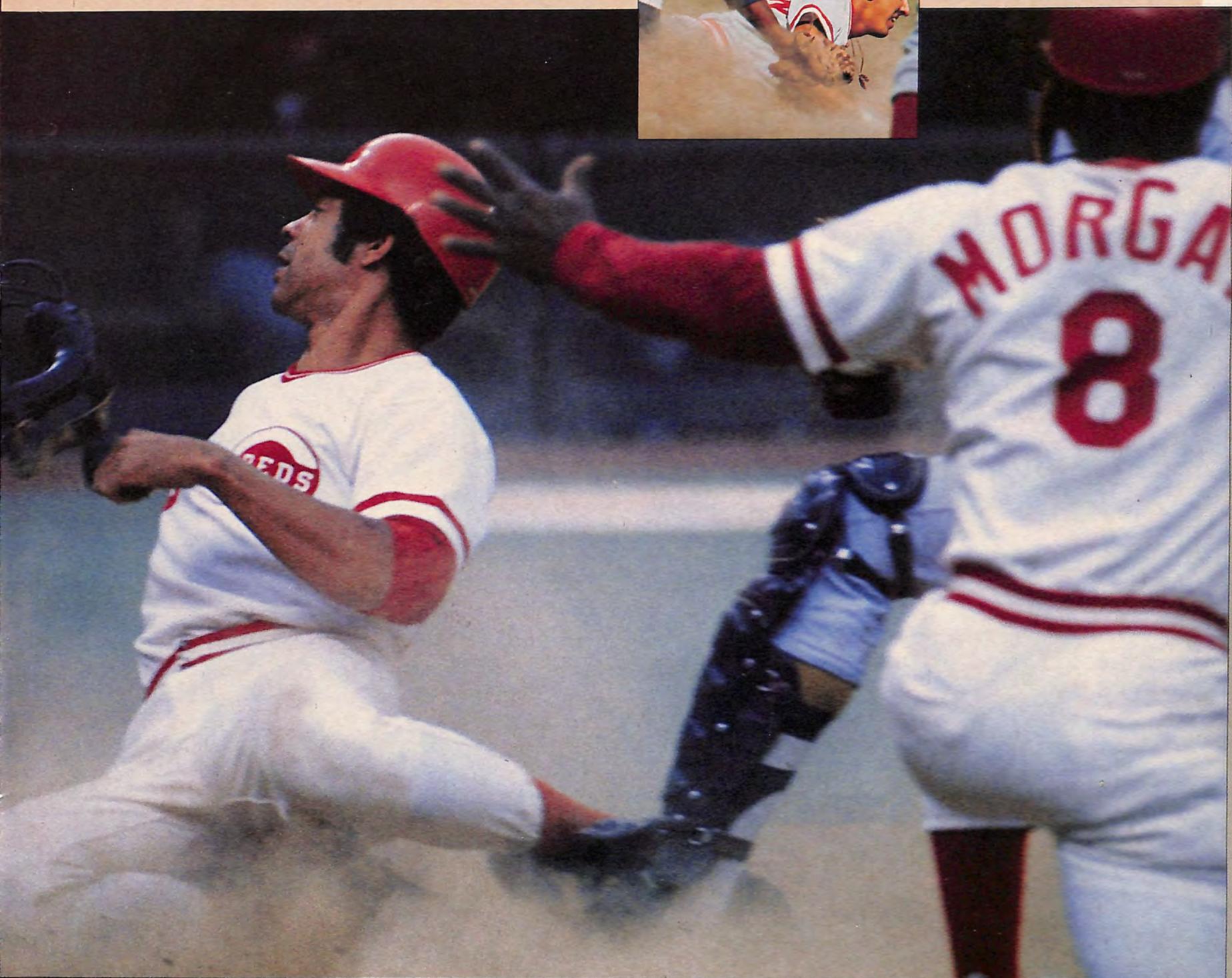
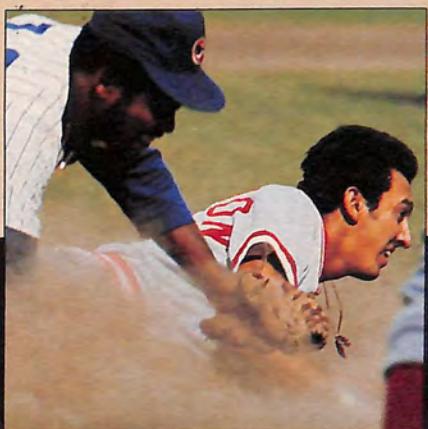
THE BEST CATCHER OF HIS DAY, BENCH (LEFT) ANCHORED A CINCY DEFENSE THAT EPITOMIZED THE ADAGE THAT A GREAT TEAM MUST BE STRONG UP THE MIDDLE. EASTWICK (ABOVE) WAS A MEMBER OF A BUSY AND BRILLIANT BULLPEN THAT SAVED 50 GAMES—AND RARELY BLEW ONE

Cesar Geronimo a fine centerfielder. The Reds also had a powerful asset in Anderson, a brashly candid character. Said Sparky, "Some managers never say anything, and you know why? Because they don't have enough confidence to say anything. But this is show business. I love writers, I love microphones, I love to be on television."

In five previous seasons with the Reds, Sparky had won three division titles and two pennants—but not a World Series. He would rectify that in spectacular fashion, for the '75 Series with the Boston Red Sox would be one of the most exciting ever played. The Reds got there by winning the National League West by 20 games and sweeping the Pirates in the playoffs; in their playoffs, the Red Sox swept the A's. Boston's Luis Tiant pitched a 6-0 shutout in Game 1, at Fenway Park, but in the second game the Reds rallied from a 2-1 deficit to score twice in the ninth. The third game, in Cincinnati, turned on a controversial play in the 10th inning, with the score tied 5-5. Reds pinch hitter Ed Armbrister dropped a sacrifice bunt in front of the



THE RUNNIN' REDS
(ROSE, TOP LEFT;
CONCEPCION, BOTTOM
LEFT) LANDED ATOP
THE NATIONAL LEAGUE
WEST BY 20 GAMES. IN
THE PLAYOFFS (BELOW)
GERONIMO AND HIS
MATES DUSTED THE
PIRATES IN A
THREE-GAME SWEEP





A TICKET TO THE SERIES
OF '75 IS NOW A PRIZED
SOUVENIR OF ONE
OF THE GAME'S CLASSIC
CONFRONTATIONS

ENTER GATE 4
237 8 103
AISLE ROW SEAT

AME
3
PLAZA RESERVED
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ADMIT ONE
Riverfront Stadium
CINCINNATI

WORLD
SERIES
1975

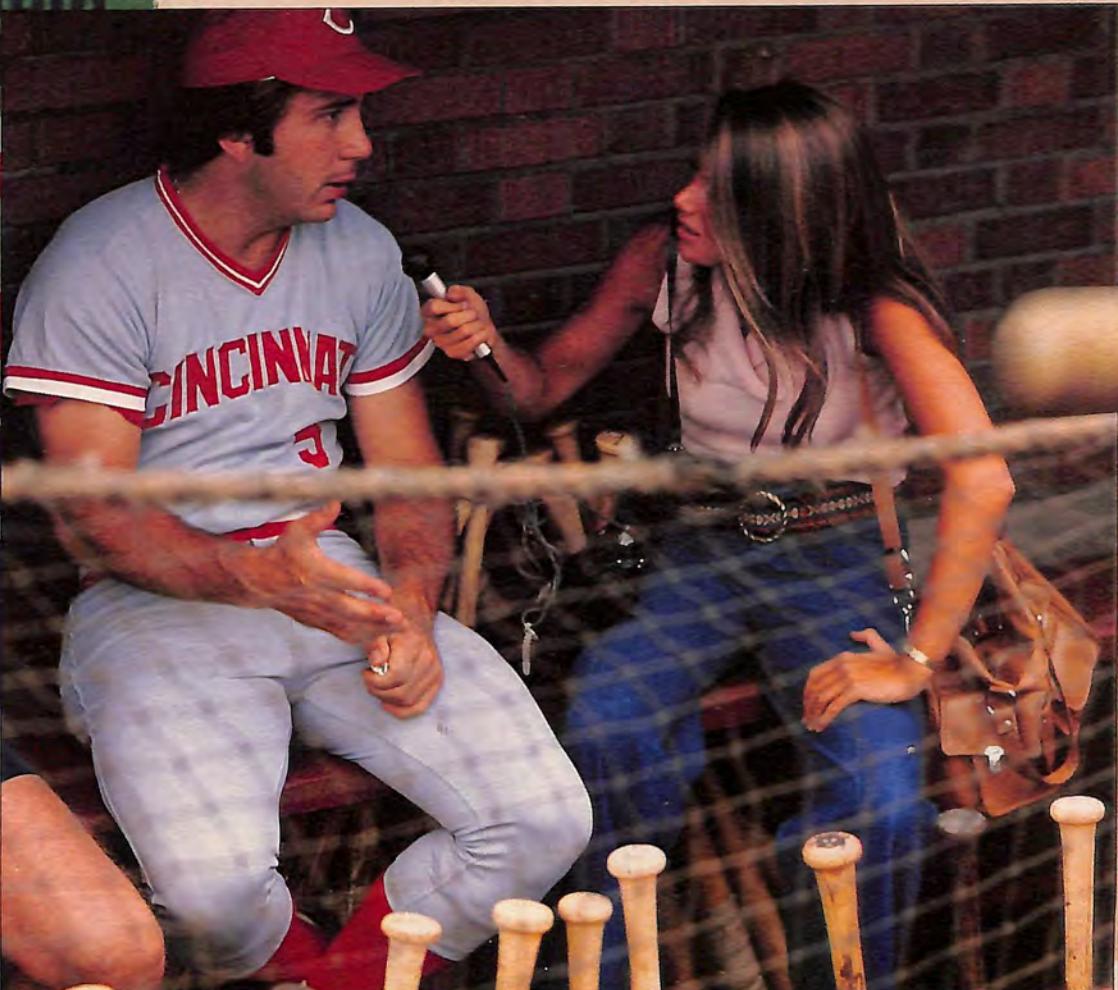


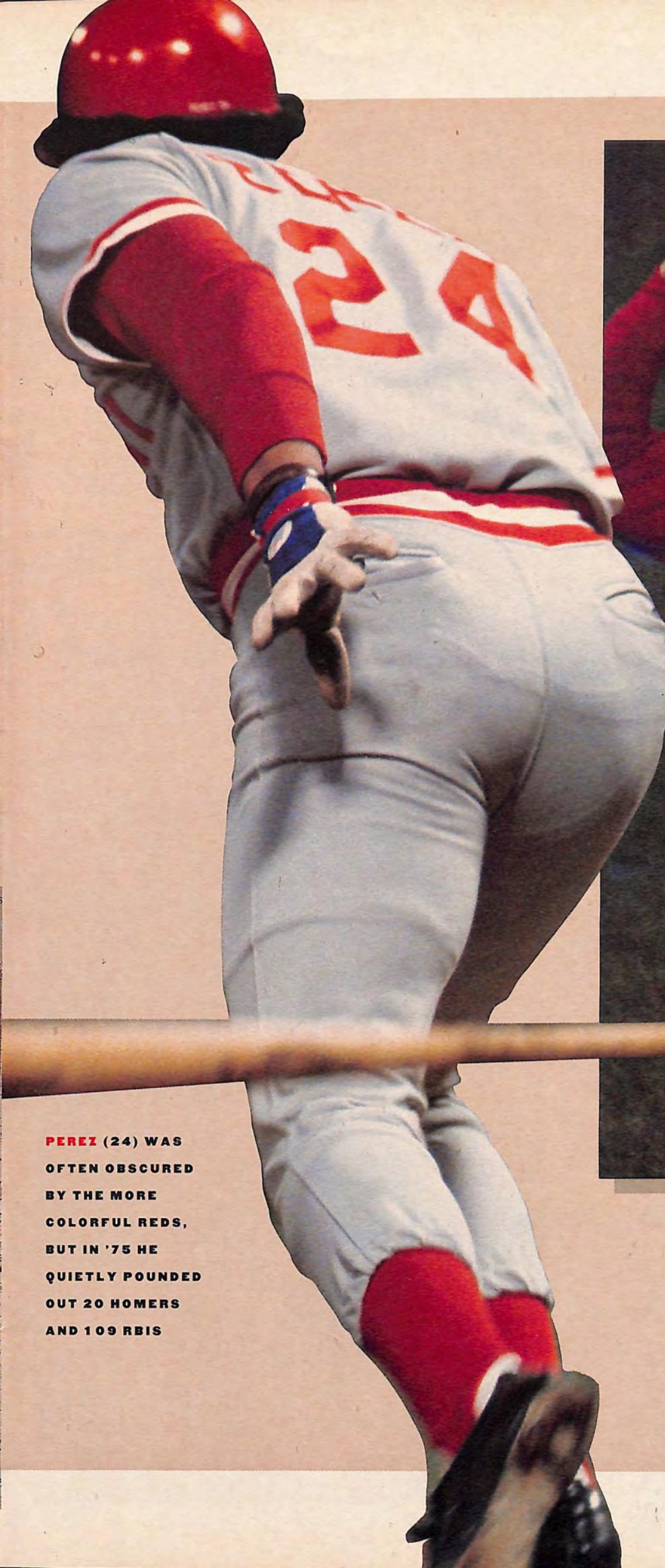
plate and collided with catcher Carlton Fisk, whose throw to second sailed into centerfield. Despite Fisk's protestations, plate umpire Larry Barnett refused to call interference on Armbriester, and Morgan subsequently singled Geronimo home with the winning run.

The teams traded wins in Games 4 and 5, then played a classic sixth game in Fenway, with pinch hitter Bernie Carbo tying it at 6-6 in the eighth with a three-run homer and Fisk winning it in the 12th with his famous body-English homer off the leftfield foul pole. "The greatest game I've ever played in," said Rose. "Think what that will do for baseball." Morgan kept his mind on the task at hand. "Beer today, champagne tomorrow," he said prophetically. The deciding game was another thriller. The Reds won 4-3 when Morgan's looping single in the ninth scored Ken Griffey from third. Five of the seven games were won by a single run.

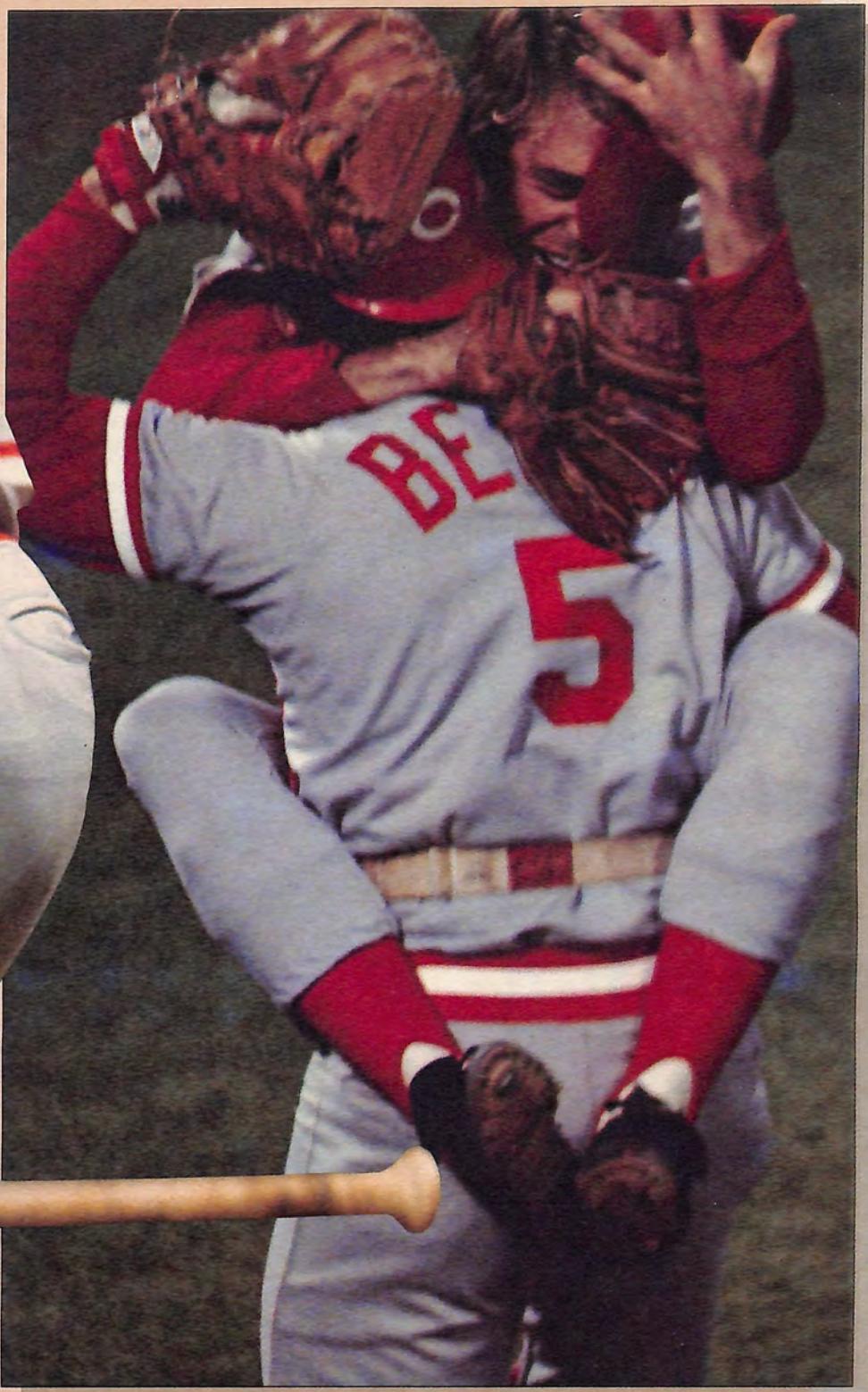
The Big Red Machine has continued to plow a furrow in baseball history. Bench and Morgan are already in the Hall of Fame, and Anderson should eventually follow them. But history takes some sad turns, and the jury is, of course, still out on the irrepressible Rose, the Red who, if judged only by the deeds of his playing career, is the most deserving of them all. ■

BENCH, LIKE HIS
MANAGER, WELCOMED
A MICROPHONE; AND
WHEN HE RETIRED FROM
THE DUGOUT, HE FOUND
HIS WAY TO THE
BROADCAST BOOTH





**PEREZ (24) WAS
OFTEN OBSCURED
BY THE MORE
COLORFUL REDS,
BUT IN '75 HE
QUIETLY POUNDED
OUT 20 HOMERS
AND 109 RBIS**



**IT WAS FITTING THAT
GAME 7 OF THE SERIES
WAS CLOSED OUT
BY A REDS RELIEVER.
IN CELEBRATION,
MCENANEY AND BENCH
COULD BARELY KEEP
THEIR HATS ON**



CHICAGO WHITE STOCKINGS



Hail, the King

The White Stockings boasted the game's first superstar, King Kelly

They could have taken their show to the stage, these White Stockings of '85, for theirs was a memorable cast. Owner Albert Goodwill Spalding, one of the game's great visionaries, later made a fortune in sporting goods. The manager, Adrian Constantine (Cap) Anson, was a straitlaced chap whose puritanical attitudes wore heavily on his players—especially on his biggest star, one Mike (King) Kelly. The flamboyant Kelly wore fancy duds and preferred to drive his carriage in the fast lane, drinking and smoking and making a spectacle of himself. And as a player, he had a style all his own. Kelly wasn't blessed with great speed, so he compensated by inventing the hook slide, a tactic that inspired derision, then awe as he led the National League in runs scored three years in a row. In the process he became a folk hero immortalized in song.

*Slide, Kelly, Slide! Your running's a disgrace!
Slide, Kelly, Slide! Stay there, hold your base!
And your batting doesn't fail you, They'll take you to Australia!
Slide, Kelly, on your belly! Slide, Slide, Slide!*

As the key player on baseball's original dynasty team, Kelly was the game's first superstar and led the White Stockings to National League pennants in 1880, '81 and '82. But by '84 the team had slipped to fourth. Pitching was Chicago's problem, and in the 1880s

THE KING AND HIS COURT: (TOP ROW, FROM LEFT) GORE, FLINT, ANSON, MCCORMICK, KELLY, PFEFFER; (BOTTOM) WILLIAMSON, DALRYMPLE, BURNS, CLARKSON, SUNDAY. KELLY'S EXPLOITS EARNED HIM A PLAQUE IN COOPERSTOWN



MIKE J. (KING) KELLY
COLORFUL PLAYER AND AUDACIOUS
BASE-RUNNER. IN 1887 FOR BOSTON
HE HIT .394 AND STOLE '84 BASES.
HIS SALE FOR \$10,000 WAS ONE OF
THE BIGGEST DEALS OF BASEBALL'S
EARLY HISTORY.



pitching could mean everything. It was no easy job. To begin with, the mound was a scant 50 feet from the batter's box, and batters had the right to call for high or low pitches. Most teams went with a two-man staff, and at the beginning of the '85 season, Spalding brought in a new duo, John Clarkson and Jim McCormick.

The rest of the team returned intact. The famous Stone Wall Infield was anchored by Anson at first base and Ned Williamson at third. Frank (Silver Flint) handled most of the catching, and shortstop Tommy Burns and second baseman Fred Pfeffer were the double-play combination. Centerfielder George Gore and leftfielder Abner Dalrymple joined Kelly in the outfield, with young Billy Sunday, the future fire-and-brimstone evangelist, as a backup. And in '85 Kelly showed off his newest innovation—the headfirst slide.

The White Stockings (a forerunner of the Chicago Cubs) finished 87-25 (.777) that season, battling the New York Giants wire to wire and finishing two games ahead of them. Over the season, Clarkson pitched 623 innings, winning an incredible 53 games against 16 defeats, with a 1.85 ERA. McCormick was 20-4 and 2.43 in a mere 215 innings. Kelly was once again the man who made things happen. The King batted just .288 but drove in 74 runs and scored a league-high 124. No one kept track of stolen bases in those years, but by all accounts Kelly swiped them at will. (Two years later, when steals became a category of record, he was credited with 84.)

In the championship matchup (a predecessor of the World Series) Chicago took on the St. Louis Browns, champs of the American Association, an upstart league that—gasp!—sold beer in the ballpark. This was to have been a 12-game traveling road show, with games in Chicago, St. Louis and five other cities. The first game, in Chicago, ended in a tie, called because of darkness. In the sixth inning of the second game, in St. Louis, with Chicago leading 5-4, Browns manager Charley Comiskey, egged on by aggravated St. Louis fans, pulled his team off the field after complaining that the Browns were receiving unfair treatment from umpire Danny Sullivan. The game was ruled a Chicago victory by forfeit. But the Browns won three of the next five games in the foreshortened series and declared themselves world champions, disclaiming the forfeit. Spalding contended the forfeit would stand and the series was a draw. That's the way it's listed in the record books.

Spalding resigned as president of the White Stockings in 1891, though he remained a successful businessman until his death in 1915. Anson, who routinely refused to play teams that had black players, was largely responsible for drawing the color line in baseball. He was fired by the White Stockings in 1887. And Kelly? Anticipating a decline in the King's skills, Spalding sold his star attraction to Boston for \$10,000 in 1887, the most talked-about deal of the age. Kelly died of typhoid in 1894, a young old man of 36. ■



PHILADELPHIA ATHLETICS

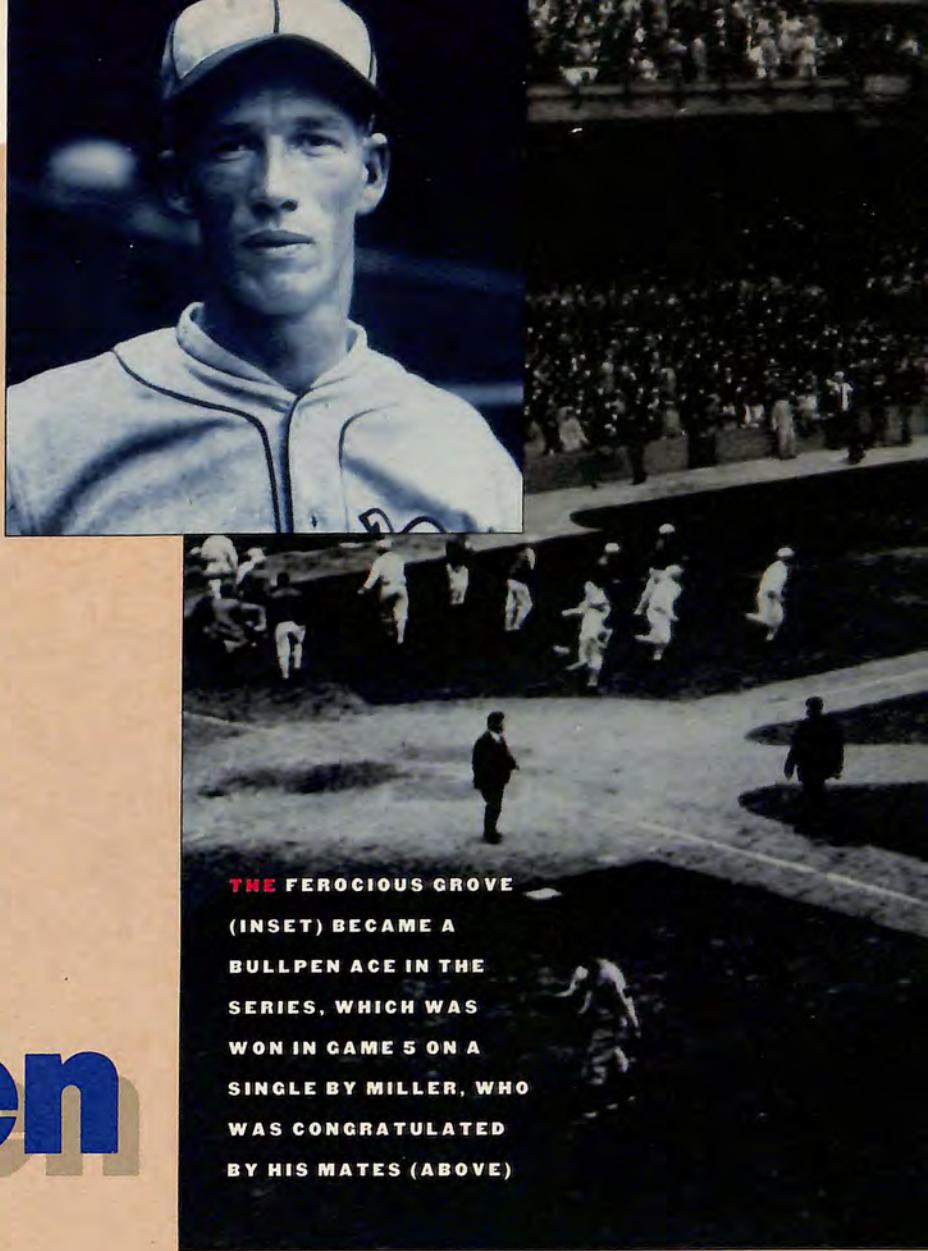
Mack's Men

In his 32nd season, manager Connie Mack built a powerhouse

Only an exceptional team could have halted the Yankees' relentless march through baseball in the late 1920s. Such a team was Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics, and in 1929 they rose up and knocked the Yanks down. Mack was 67 years old in '29, and in his 29th season with Philadelphia (his 32nd as a big league manager). He had built this team carefully, nurturing his younger players the two previous seasons with the help of such wise veterans as Ty Cobb, Eddie Collins and Tris Speaker. By '29 the fledglings were ready to fly on their own. And when they were done, four of those A's—Al Simmons, Jimmie Foxx, Mickey Cochrane and Lefty Grove—along with their owner-manager would become Hall of Famers.

When the '29 season opened, Foxx was just 21 and Cochrane 26, but each was starting his fifth season. Simmons, 27, was in his sixth year. The centerfielder, Mule Haas, was 25 and in his third year. Grove, 29, had been a 20-game winner twice in his four seasons, and the strikeout leader in all four.

The '29 A's had a lineup with a little bit of everything. Leadoff hitter Max (Camera Eye) Bishop led the league with 128 walks and scored 102 runs. Haas, who hit .313 and scored 115 runs, batted second. And then came the sluggers: Cochrane (.331), Simmons (.365) and the mighty Foxx (.354). Cochrane was considered the best catcher in baseball; and in Simmons and Foxx, Mack had a power combination that was surpassed only by New York's Ruth and Gehrig.



THE FEROCIOUS GROVE
(INSET) BECAME A
BULLPEN ACE IN THE
SERIES, WHICH WAS
WON IN GAME 5 ON A
SINGLE BY MILLER, WHO
WAS CONGRATULATED
BY HIS MATES (ABOVE)

Simmons finished second to Lew Fonseca in the batting race that year and hit 34 homers while driving in a league-leading 157 runs. Foxx (33 homers, 117 RBIs) was still a growing boy, but he had arms that Hall of Fame pitcher Ted Lyons said "looked like tires carrying 35 pounds of air."

Grove, who won 20 in '29 and led the league with 170 strikeouts and an ERA of 2.81, combined with big George Earnshaw, the league leader with 24 wins, and 18-game winner Rube Walberg to form the heart of the pitching rotation. Grove and Cochrane, both ferocious competitors, had become the most feared battery in baseball because of their willingness, even eagerness, to knock down any hitter. The dour, humorless Grove denied that he was a headhunter, though. "I would never do that," he said. "I always hit 'em in the pockets." Grove was fierce even when he was just pitching batting practice. According to onetime teammate Doc Cramer, "If you hit one through the box, you'd go down on the next pitch."

Grove's will to win was so intense that on those rare occasions when he didn't, he was known to tear his uniform to tatters, shirt buttons zooming across the locker room like bullets. In contrast, Mack, dressed like a clergyman, sat serenely on the bench through every game, positioning his outfielders by waving his scorecard.

The Athletics hit .296 as a team, won 104 of 150 games and finished 18 games ahead of the second-place Yankees—who had



COCHRANE, CONSIDERED
BY MANY THE BEST
CATCHER EVER, TAGGED
OUT HORNSBY IN
GAME 2. COCHRANE WAS
VOTED INTO THE HALL
OF FAME, WHERE HIS
MASK IS ENSHRINED

terrorized baseball by sweeping the World Series the previous two seasons. In the Series of '29, the A's faced a Cub team, managed by Joe McCarthy, that had so many powerful righthanded hitters—Rogers Hornsby, Hack Wilson, Riggs Stephenson, Kiki Cuyler—that Mack ordered all of his lefthanders, Grove included, to the bullpen. Instead of naming Earnshaw as his opening-game starter, Mack shocked the Cubs and all of baseball by calling on 35-year-old veteran Howard Ehmke to take the hill at Wrigley Field that day.

Ehmke responded by defeating Chicago ace Charlie Root 3-1 and setting a Series record by striking out 13. The next day, Earnshaw and Grove combined for 13 more strikeouts in a 9-3 win. The Cubs rebounded to win Game 3 in Philadelphia's Shibe Park and were leading 8-0 in the seventh inning of Game 4 when the Athletics, apparently unfazed by the lopsided score, came back with a vengeance. Simmons led off the inning with a homer; 14 batters later the A's had scored a Series-record 10 runs. Final score: 10-8. The Cubs were both beaten and demoralized. Still, in the fifth game Chicago was leading 2-0 with one out in the bottom of the ninth; the A's again came back, scoring three times, with Simmons touching the plate for the Series winner on rightfielder Bing Miller's single.

The Athletics would go on to win another World Series in 1930 and lose one in '31, and then Mack, hit hard by the Great Depression, would break up this wonderful team. He would never again, in a career that finally ended in 1950, have another champion. But in 1929 he had one of the best ever.





THE 1974

OAKLAND ATHLETICS



A's, as in Agitated

They were brawlers and name-callers, but these A's knew how to win

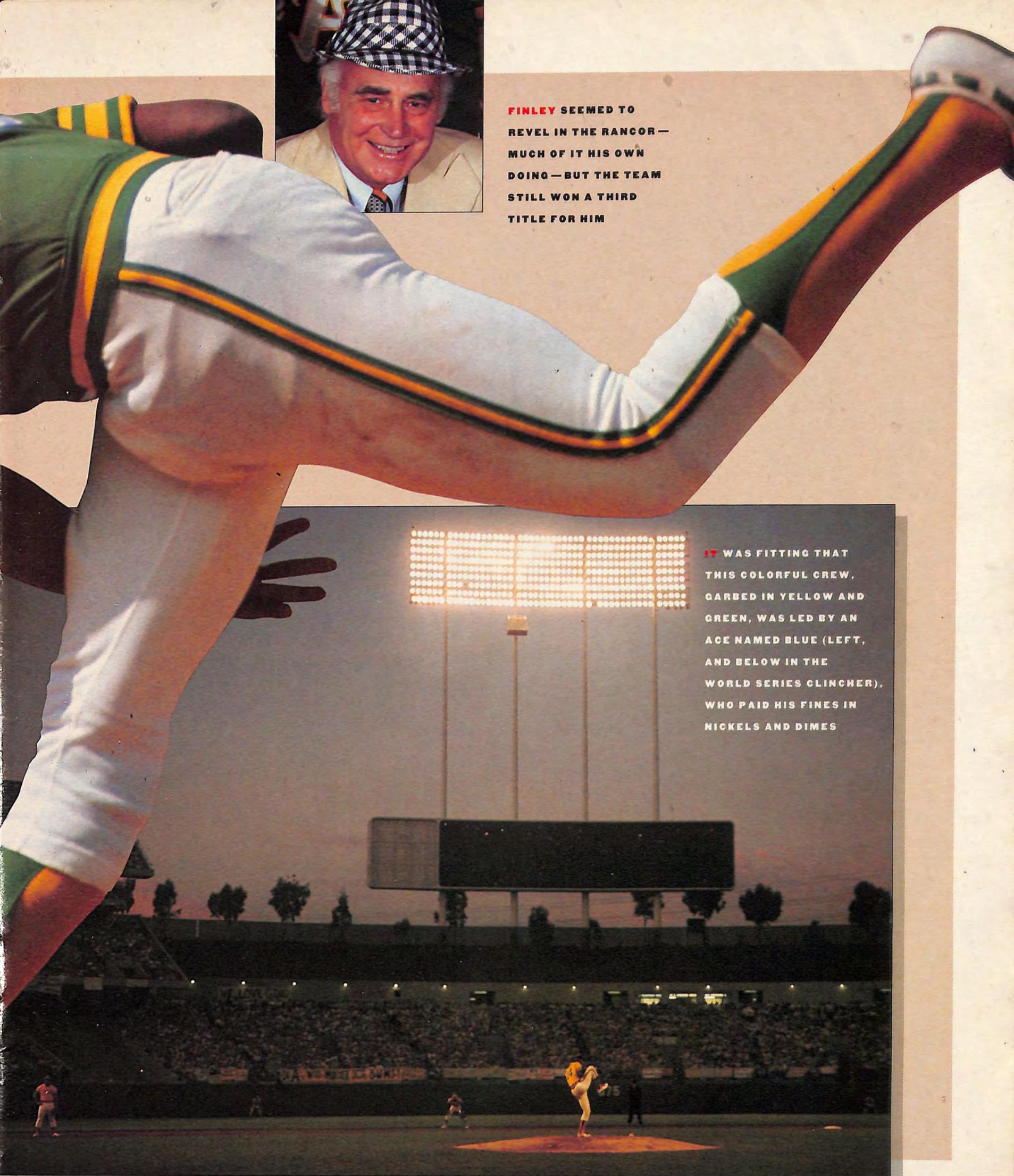
It was a team with the dossier of a classic loser. The owner was a flagrant penny-pincher who took pleasure in underpaying his players and humiliating them publicly. The manager, hired only a week before the start of spring training, was denigrated by his players as a Bible-thumping hypocrite and a hopeless lackey to the owner. The players didn't get along with each other any better, arguing and brawling all season long. If there was a chemistry in this clubhouse, it was nitroglycerin mixed with sulfuric acid.

The team statistics weren't even impressive. There were no .300 hitters, and no one hit as many as 30 home runs or scored 100 runs. The team batting average was .247. Hardly anyone turned out to watch these truculent misfits play. The season attendance was a mere 845,693, down 155,000 from the none-too-profitable season before. And yet the 1974 Oakland A's must rank as one of the game's very best. They may have fought in the clubhouse, but on the field they were truly a team, as smart and cohesive a unit as ever played. The A's were virtually mistake-free afield, and their pitching, in both the rotation and the bullpen, was exemplary.

This was the team of Reggie Jackson, Sal Bando, Bert Campaneris, Joe Rudi, Catfish Hunter, Vida Blue and Rollie Fingers. They played only as well as they had to during the regular season, winning just 90 games but finishing five games ahead in the American League West. And then, aroused as always by the occasion, they finished off the Orioles in four games for the pennant and the Dodgers in five for



THE ATHLETICS WERE SUCH A BAND OF INDIVIDUALISTS THAT EVEN THE NATIONAL ANTHEM COULDN'T COMMAND THEIR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION



FINLEY SEEMED TO
REVEL IN THE RANCOR—
MUCH OF IT HIS OWN
DOING—BUT THE TEAM
STILL WON A THIRD
TITLE FOR HIM

IT WAS FITTING THAT
THIS COLORFUL CREW,
GARBED IN YELLOW AND
GREEN, WAS LED BY AN
ACE NAMED BLUE (LEFT,
AND BELOW IN THE
WORLD SERIES CLINCHER),
WHO PAID HIS FINES IN
NICKELS AND DIMES





OAKLAND'S TRIUMPH IN
'74 MADE IT THREE IN A
ROW, A TRIPLE PLAY
MATCHED ONLY BY THE
YANKEES BEFORE, AND
BY NO TEAM SINCE

THE COMBINED
EFFORTS OF RUDI AND
NORTH COULDN'T
QUITE BRING DOWN A
SHOT OFF THE BAT OF
L.A.'S JIM WYNN IN
GAME 1. THE BALL
WENT FOR A HOME
RUN, BUT TO NO AVAIL,
AS OAKLAND WON 3-2

the World Series. It was owner Charles O. Finley's third straight title, and no team has strung that many together since.

Dick Williams managed Charlie O's first two champs, but Williams, never a patient man, had had his fill of the meddling owner after the '73 Series and quit, presumably to manage the Yankees. But Charlie blocked that move, holding Williams to his contract. Williams said he would rather sit out a year than manage for Finley again, so Charlie hired Alvin Dark as a last-minute replacement—much to the displeasure of players who had grown accustomed to, if not necessarily enamored of, the crusty Williams.

Dark's unpopularity reached its zenith in the last weeks of spring training when he quietly acquiesced to Finley's hiring of Herb Washington, a trackman with no baseball experience, to fill the 25th spot on the roster as "designated runner."

The season got off to a routinely stormy start. The Dark-Finley management team had tried seven second basemen by the 31st game, then settled finally and almost reluctantly on the brilliant fielder Dick Green. In June, Jackson and centerfielder Bill North had a fistfight in the clubhouse, which resulted in a major injury—a ruptured cervical disk—to the blessed peacemaker, catcher Ray Fosse. Later that same month, team captain Bando complained that Dark "couldn't manage a meat market."

In July, Finley fired third base coach Irv Noren and bullpen coach Vern Hoscheit. Dark fined Blue \$250 for flipping him the ball while being removed from a game, and Blue responded by spilling the fine money, in small coins, on the manager's desk. Later in the season, Blue was hospitalized with chest pains and was rumored to have suffered a heart attack. Further examination revealed that he had only an irregular heartbeat.

After an opening-game loss to Baltimore in the playoffs, Ken

THE 1974 ATHLETICS

Holtzman (a 19-game winner) and Blue pitched consecutive shutouts, and Hunter, who had won 25, combined with Fingers for a 2-1 pennant-winning victory. The day before the World Series started, Fingers and pitcher John (Blue Moon)

Odom slugged it out in the clubhouse, with Fingers suffering a cut on the back of his head that required five stitches. The sutures, Fingers advised newsmen, did not establish a club record. "I believe the record is 15 stitches," he said, "held by many."

The Dodgers went down quickly in the Series, the A's triumphing as usual on pitching, defense—a picture-perfect Jackson-Green-Bando relay cut down L.A.'s last threat in Game 5—and baseball intelligence. The Series was actually won at the start of the seventh inning of

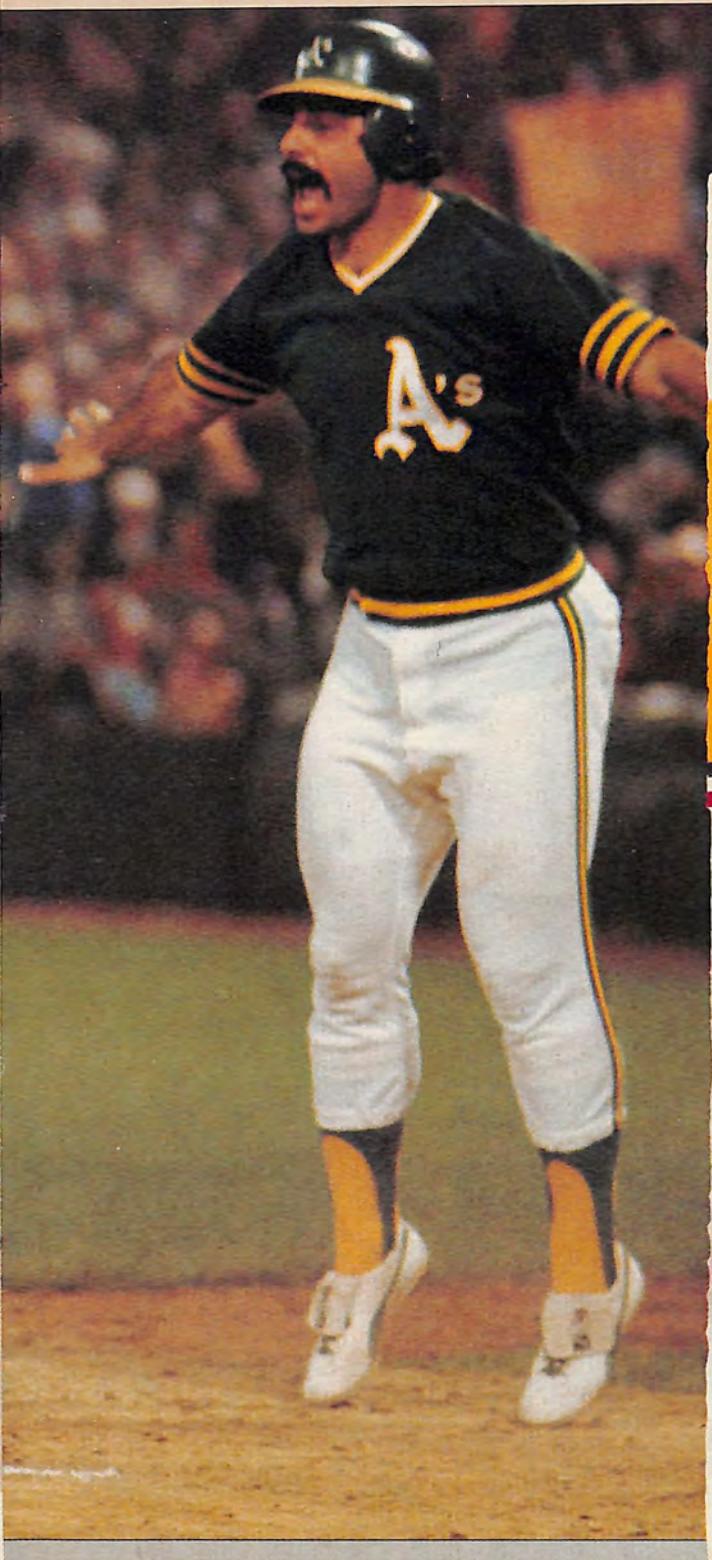
Game 5, when Dodger leftfielder Bill Buckner complained to umpires that fans in the leftfield seats at the Oakland Coliseum were pelting him with everything from apples to whiskey bottles. The game was delayed six minutes while the fans were brought to order, during which time Rudi, the inning's leadoff hitter, watched Dodger pitcher Mike Marshall argue rather than warm up. Rudi figured that when play resumed, a cold Marshall would throw only fastballs in his first few pitches. Marshall's first pitch was indeed a fastball, and Rudi hit it over the leftfield fence and into that rowdy crowd for the world championship.

"Talent overcomes everything," Bando observed afterward. "And we got talent. I don't think an average team could survive all this." Average, the A's were not. ■



WHEN JACKSON BOWLED
OVER DODGER CATCHER
STEVE YEAGER IN GAME 4,
BANDO WAS QUICK TO
ASSIST THE UMP WITH
THE CORRECT CALL

AFTER FINGERS GOT THE
FINAL OUT OF GAME 5,
HE WAS MOBBED BY HIS
TEAMMATES, WHO
CELEBRATED WITH THE
SAME FLAIR THAT HAD
CHARACTERIZED THEIR
TUMULTUOUS SEASON



ENTER GATE
LOWER LEVEL

120 18 11
SEC. ROW SEAT

FIRST DECK

GAME
5

\$15.00
ADMIT ONE
Oakland Coliseum
OAKLAND

**WORLD
SERIES
1974**



DESPITE ITS SUCCESS
ON THE FIELD, THIS
OAKLAND TEAM HAD
MISERABLE HOME
ATTENDANCE; BUT
49,347 PEOPLE FOUND
THE SERIES CLINCHER
A HOT TICKET

american league

THE
1907
CHICAGO CUBS



Scratching It Out

With prowess but no power, the '07 Cubs clawed their way to a title

The Chicago Cubs of 1907 were the most powerful team in baseball in an era when power was defined not by home runs and RBIs but solely by victories. They played the dead-ball game better than anyone, scratching out runs with walks, hit batsmen and stolen bases, and protecting one-run leads as if they were treasured jewels.

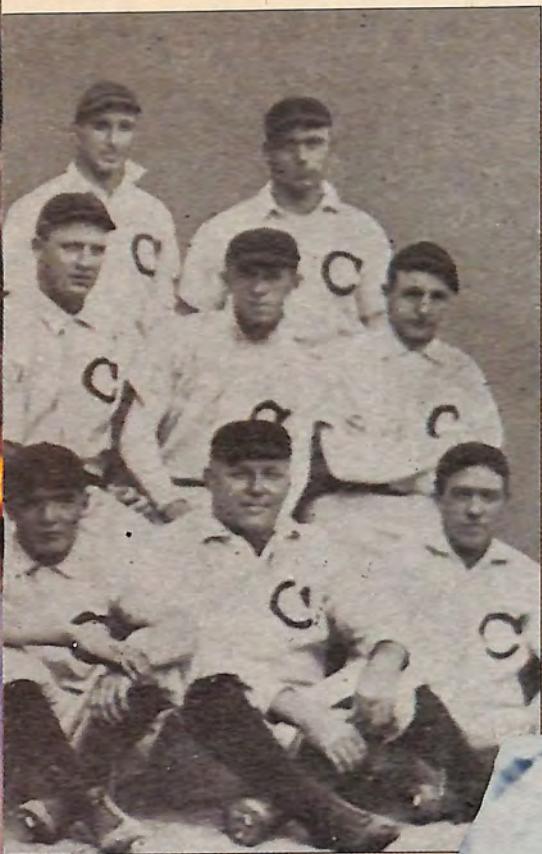
These Cubs were a reflection of their gritty manager-first baseman, Frank Chance, nicknamed the Peerless Leader. When Chance filled out the lineup card, he penciled himself into the three-hole, and he backed up his self-esteem by leading the club with a .293 average. Chance expected his players to hang in on inside fastballs, run the bases with abandon and play through injuries. To set an example, Chance would rub tobacco juice on his wounds before trotting out to his position. "Play it my way or meet me after the game," the Peerless Leader would say. The '07 Cubs played it his way.

A year earlier, in Chance's first full season at the helm, the Cubs had won a major league-record 116 games en route to the National League pennant but suffered a bitter defeat in the World Series, falling in six games to the crosstown White Sox. "The Sox played grand, game baseball and outclassed us in this Series," Chance said. "But there is one thing that I will never believe, and that is that the White Sox are better than the Cubs."

The memory of that defeat fueled the Cubs in 1907; they ran away from the rest of the National League, leaving the second-place Pittsburgh Pirates 17 games back. Chicago dominated even without a

THE CUBS HIT ALL OF 13 HOME RUNS THE ENTIRE SEASON, BUT WITH GRIT AND GUILE AND THE NOW-LEGENDARY KEYSTONE COMBO OF TINKER AND EVER (RIGHT), THE TEAM OF CHANCE BECAME THE TEAM OF DESTINY. FOR CHICAGO FANS IT MEANT A TICKET TO THE WEST SIDE BALLPARK TO WATCH THE CUBS WIN THEIR FIRST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP





KELLY FAMOUS
RS OF 116 CH

SPALDING AND
SHIP GAMES IN 1

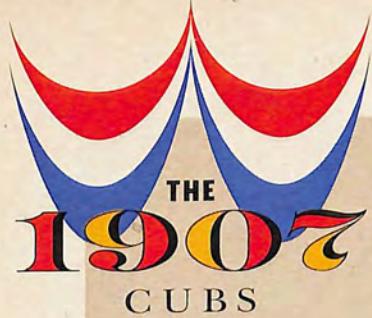
CHICAGO
NATIONAL
LEAGUE
MAKERS
WORLD'S
RECORD
CHAMPIONS

POLK, WOOD,
TAYLOR AND
LINCOLN STREETS

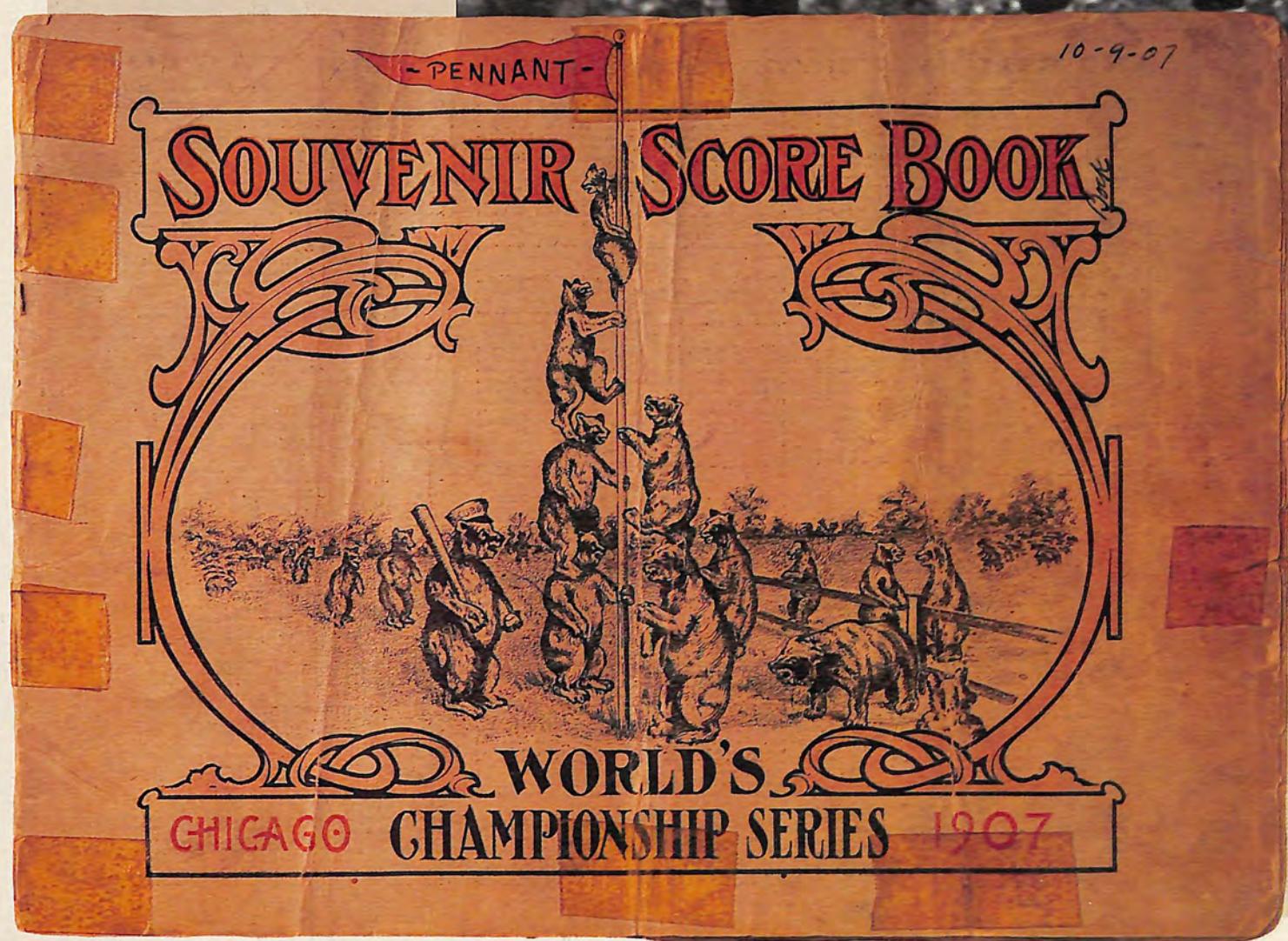
George Stallings, Pres.
Newark, N.J.

Charles Murphy,
PRESIDENT

BURNS PFEFFER



ANYONE KEEPING A
SCORE BOOK DURING
THE '07 SERIES WOULD
HAVE RECORDED THE
CURIOUS FACT THAT
GAME 1 ENDED IN A 3-3
TIE, AND A SUSPICIOUS
DEADLOCK AT THAT





THE CUBS' FABLED INFIELD INCLUDED (FROM LEFT, AND AROUND THE HORN) STEINFELDT, TINKER, EVERSON AND CHANCE. THE LATTER THREE WERE IMMORTALIZED IN A JOURNALIST'S POEM; BUT IT WAS STEINFELDT, THE FORGOTTEN THIRD BASEMAN, WHO WAS THE HITTING STAR OF THE WORLD SERIES



true offensive star. As a team, the Cubs hit just 13 home runs. But their superior pitching, defense and speed set them apart.

The Cub defense was anchored by the most famous infield trio in baseball history: Joe Tinker, Johnny Evers and Chance, a double-play combination that was inducted into the Hall of Fame as a unit. Their keystone play inspired New York columnist Franklin P. Adams to write a poem that galvanized their fame:

*Ruthlessly pricking our gonfalon bubble,
Making a Giant hit into a double—
Words that are weighty with nothing but trouble:
Tinker to Evers to Chance.*

But for all the renown of the Tinker to Evers to Chance infield, the real keys to the '07 Cubs were named Brown, Reulbach, Overall, Pfeister and Lundgren. These five men formed a pitching staff that hurled 30 shutouts in 1907 and held opponents to under two earned runs per game. Orval Overall and Mordecai (Three Finger) Brown both topped the 20-win mark, while Carl Lundgren, Ed Reulbach and Jack Pfeister each won 15 or more.

The only hitch in the season came in July, when Chance was suspended for four games after he became involved in a bottle-throwing incident with the bleacherites in Brooklyn. The manager needed an armored car and a police escort to escape the angry mob. But Chance survived and so did the Cubs, and by October only the Detroit Tigers, led by a 20-year-old hitting sensation named Ty Cobb, stood between the Cubs and their first world championship.

In the World Series opener Detroit took a 3-1 lead into the bottom of the ninth inning, but one infamous play cost the Tigers the game and perhaps their only shot at defeating heavily favored Chicago. With two on, two out and the score now 3-2, Chance sent up Del Howard to pinch-hit for Tinker. Bill Donovan, the Tigers' ace, struck Howard out, but strike three got away from catcher Butch Schmidt, allowing the tying run to score. Three scoreless innings later, the game was called because of darkness and ended in a tie.

Suspicion abounded after the game because of a meeting that had been held on the eve of the Series. At that meeting, which was held to determine if the players would share in the revenue of only the first four games of the Series, Tiger second baseman Germany Schaefer, representing the players, had posed a question to the National Commission. Said Schaefer, "I wanna know, is a tie game a legal game as far as us players is concerned, or do we share in the Series [revenues] until four games are played to a decision?" The commission ruled that if a tie occurred, the players would share in the revenue of the first five games. In light of that ruling, the tie game and Schmidt's ninth-inning fumble seemed more than a little curious. The commission's investigation determined that the game had been contested too fiercely for any player to have "pulled anything." Chicago swept the ensuing four games to secure the title, and the Tiger and Cub players all walked away with five-game shares.

Shady doings aside, Chicago's pitchers completely handcuffed the Tigers the rest of the Series. Cobb was held to just four hits in 20 at bats, and the Tigers scored only three runs in the final four games. Chance's club won in its own style: The Cubs stole 16 bases, and of their 43 hits, 36 were singles. The overlooked man in the famous infield, third baseman Harry Steinfeldt, hit .471, and centerfielder Jimmy Slagle drove in a Series-high four runs.

These Cubs would win another world championship in '08, proving themselves a peerless team for their Peerless Leader. ■



THE 1953

NEW YORK YANKEES



Five!

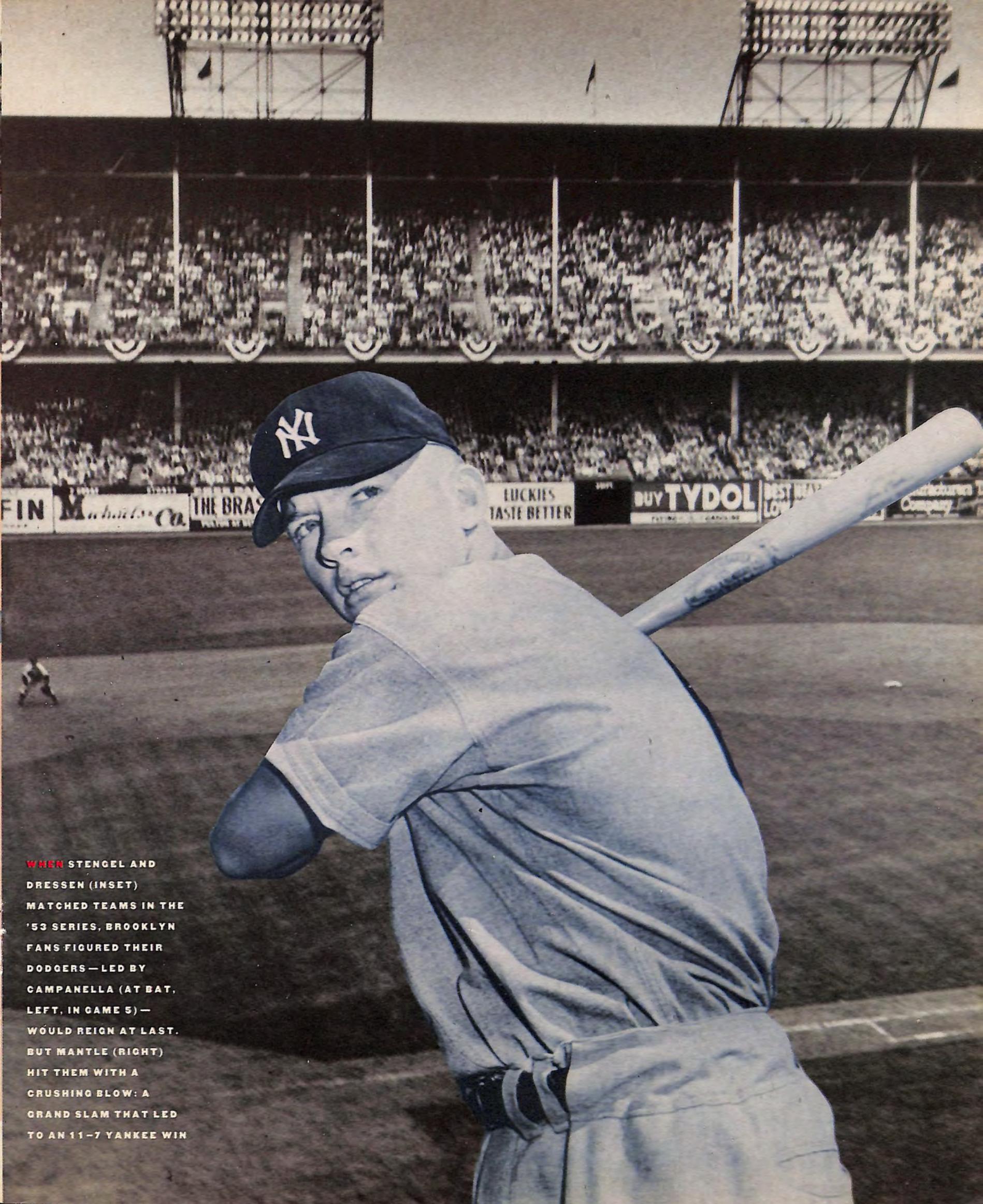
The Yanks' fifth straight title broke a record—and lots of Brooklyn hearts

By the early 1950s, baseball had become big business and the New York Yankees were U.S. Steel. The Yanks were getting \$500,000 in radio and TV rights fees, an astounding figure for the time. Not that the club needed it to meet payroll—Mickey Mantle, the team's 21-year-old centerfielder and budding superstar, had a salary in 1953 of around \$18,000. (Mickey did supplement his income with more than a few endorsements: Wheaties cereal, Camel cigarettes, Beech-Nut gum, Esquire socks, Van Heusen shirts, Haggar slacks and, of course, Louisville Slugger bats. He also became one of history's youngest subjects for an autobiography when *The Mickey Mantle Story* was published in the spring of '53.)

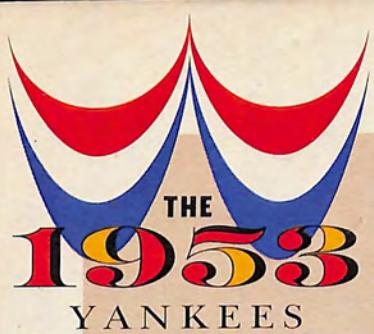
On the field the Yankees, having won four consecutive pennants and World Series, were aiming for an unprecedented fifth straight world championship. "I don't want to tell people what kind of a ball club I got," said manager Casey Stengel, "but it's the best damn ball club you ever saw."

Stengel knew what to do with it. In the previous four seasons the Yankees had used 50 different players, and before the 1953 season was over, Stengel would use some 80 different batting orders. The Old Professor had hoped to pencil Mantle in every day, but the Mick, hampered by a sore and swollen knee, missed 24 games. Though his season was statistically disappointing, with only 21 homers, he did hit some of the longest blasts ever.





WHEN STENGEL AND
DRESSEN (INSET)
MATCHED TEAMS IN THE
'53 SERIES, BROOKLYN
FANS FIGURED THEIR
DODGERS—LED BY
CAMPANELLA (AT BAT,
LEFT, IN GAME 5)—
WOULD REIGN AT LAST.
BUT MANTLE (RIGHT)
HIT THEM WITH A
CRUSHING BLOW: A
GRAND SLAM THAT LED
TO AN 11-7 YANKEE WIN



THE GLOVE OF PITCHER
ALLIE REYNOLDS, WHO
GOT THE WIN IN THE
FINAL GAME OF THE
SERIES, FOUND ITS WAY
TO COOPERSTOWN

IN THE VICTORY
CELEBRATION, MARTIN
GOT AN ARMLOAD OF
RIZZUTO, WHO SEALED
THE SERIES WITH A KISS





THE SERIES WAS
A BACKSTOP
BONANZA FEATURING
BERRA (8) AND
CAMPY (39), TWO
OF THE FINEST
CATCHERS IN THE
GAME'S HISTORY



CAMPANELLA'S
SPLENDID SEASON
EARNED HIM HIS
LEAGUE'S MVP AWARD,
BUT MARTIN HAD 12
HITS AND WAS THE
WORLD SERIES HERO



In the fourth game of the season, Mantle homered off lefty Chuck Stobbs in Washington's Griffith Stadium. The ball traveled over the left centerfield bleachers 460 feet from home plate, bounced off a sign above the 50-foot back wall and came to rest in a yard, 565 feet from home plate. The only other man to clear the back wall at Griffith was Negro leagues great Josh Gibson, who did it twice. "I guess it was the longest ball I ever hit in my life," said Mantle after the game.

In April the Yankees won 11 of 14 games, and one of those victories was a real battle. In the top of the 10th inning at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, with the score tied 6-6, Yankee third baseman Gil McDougald tried to score from second on an infield single.

Browns catcher Clint Courtney had the ball, but McDougald plowed into him and knocked it loose, scoring the go-ahead run. Leading off in the bottom of the inning, Courtney singled off the rightfield wall and tried to stretch the hit into a double. Shortstop Phil Rizzuto was waiting at second with the ball, and Courtney went in with his spikes high. Rizzuto was cut on the leg, and the ensuing brawl left umpire John Stevens with a dislocated shoulder. Six players were fined a total of \$850, at the time the largest amount ever levied for a sports brawl. Courtney, as the instigator, paid \$250.

Most of New York's victories came more easily. The Yanks won the last four games in May and the first 14 in June. In May the Duke of Windsor saw the Yankees play for the first time and asked to meet "that switcher fellow." When Mantle was introduced, the duke said, "I've heard about you." Mantle, not wishing to be impolite, responded, "I've heard about you too."

A nine-game New York skid at the end of June allowed the Chicago White Sox to move within five games. When the White Sox came to Yankee Stadium in early August, they had a chance to make it a race. In the first game of the four-game series, Mantle, Yogi Berra and Billy Martin homered to lead the Yankees to a 6-1 win. In a doubleheader sweep the next day, Whitey Ford blanked the Sox 1-0 and Bob Kuzava pitched a 3-0, one-hit shutout. For the Sox and the rest of the league, the season was as good as over.

Even though the Yankees won the pennant by 8½ games, this should have been the Brooklyn Dodgers' year. They had the league MVP, catcher Roy Campanella (41 homers, 142 RBIs), and the Rookie of the Year, second baseman Jim Gilliam. Rightfielder Carl Furillo won the batting title (.344), centerfielder Duke Snider hit 42 homers, Carl Erskine was 20-6, and manager Charlie Dressen's Dodgers won 105 games to take the National League flag by 13 games.

Postseason play, however, was a Yankee speciality. In 19 trips to the Series the Yankees had won 15 times. The Dodgers had won seven pennants but had yet to win a World Series. They were overdue, and they were in the unfamiliar position of being favored.

When President Eisenhower heard that the Yanks had jumped out to a big lead in the first game of the World Series, he reportedly commented to his once and future presidential rival Adlai Stevenson, "It's time for a change." At about the same time, former president Harry Truman told reporters, "The Yankees are getting to be a habit, and it's time somebody did something about it." It seemed an act of Congress would be required to beat the Bronx Bombers.

Games 3 and 4 belonged to Brooklyn, but the Yankees won all the rest, with Mantle slugging homers in Games 2 and 5 and Martin setting a record for hits in a six-game Series with 12.

In this season of records, the Yankees earned an unprecedented winner's share of \$8,280.68, although that record didn't last for long. Casey and his club had won their fifth world title in a row—a mark that still stands, and looks sturdier with every passing season.



THE 1924

WASHINGTON SENATORS



Capital Gain

The Senators' campaign of '24 was a shocker

Before the 1924 season, the Washington Senators were considered a second-rate club. They had finished above .500 only twice in eight years, and in 1923 had been a distant fourth as Babe Ruth and the Yankees won their third pennant in a row. Pretty much the only thing Washington had to boast about was the great righthander Walter Johnson, who in 1923 won his 350th game. But even Johnson, now 36, had slowed down. He was entering his 18th season with the Senators and looked to be near the end of the road, which was a shame since he had never played on a pennant winner, had never had a chance to win a World Series game.

Then in 1924 the Senators named Bucky Harris manager, and everything changed. Harris's appointment astonished baseball. He was the club's second baseman, with only four seasons in the major leagues. He was barely 27. He had never managed before. Two thirds of his players were older than he was. Yet the Boy Manager, as Harris was called, proved to be a natural leader (he went on to manage major league teams for 29 seasons, a record surpassed only by Connie Mack and John McGraw), and he turned the team around.

Harris handled Johnson perfectly. For the first time in his career, Johnson was not asked to do any relief pitching, and in his own starts he got help from the Senators' talented bullpen more often than ever before. As a result, he pitched beautifully for Harris. In June the Senators caught fire; they won 21 of 24 games, beat the league-leading Yankees four straight and moved into first place. They



THE TWO SECOND
BASEMEN IN THE
SERIES WISHED EACH
OTHER WELL, AND
BOTH OBLIGED BY
HITTING .333. FOR THE
GIANTS' FRANKIE
FRISCH (LEFT), IT WAS
THE FOURTH
CONSECUTIVE WORLD
SERIES IN WHICH HE
HIT .300 OR BETTER.
BUT HARRIS (RIGHT)
ALSO MANAGED HIS
TEAM TO THE TITLE





THE SERIES WAS
A BACKSTOP
BONANZA FEATURING
BERRA (8) AND
CAMPY (39), TWO
OF THE FINEST
CATCHERS IN THE
GAME'S HISTORY

CAMPANELLA'S
SPLENDID SEASON
EARNED HIM HIS
LEAGUE'S MVP AWARD,
BUT MARTIN HAD 12
HITS AND WAS THE
WORLD SERIES HERO



In the fourth game of the season, Mantle homered off lefty Chuck Stobbs in Washington's Griffith Stadium. The ball traveled over the left centerfield bleachers 460 feet from home plate, bounced off a sign above the 50-foot back wall and came to rest in a yard, 565 feet from home plate. The only other man to clear the back wall at Griffith was Negro leagues great Josh Gibson, who did it twice. "I guess it was the longest ball I ever hit in my life," said Mantle after the game.

In April the Yankees won 11 of 14 games, and one of those victories was a real battle. In the top of the 10th inning at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, with the score tied 6-6, Yankee third baseman Gil McDougald tried to score from second on an infield single. Browns catcher Clint Courtney had the ball, but McDougald plowed into him and knocked it loose, scoring the go-ahead run. Leading off in the bottom of the inning, Courtney singled off the rightfield wall and tried to stretch the hit into a double. Shortstop Phil Rizzuto was waiting at second with the ball, and Courtney went in with his spikes high. Rizzuto was cut on the leg, and the ensuing brawl left umpire John Stevens with a dislocated shoulder. Six players were fined a total of \$850, at the time the largest amount ever levied for a sports brawl. Courtney, as the instigator, paid \$250.

Most of New York's victories came more easily. The Yanks won the last four games in May and the first 14 in June. In May the Duke of Windsor saw the Yankees play for the first time and asked to meet "that switcher fellow." When Mantle was introduced, the duke said, "I've heard about you." Mantle, not wishing to be impolite, responded, "I've heard about you too."

A nine-game New York skid at the end of June allowed the Chicago White Sox to move within five games. When the White Sox came to Yankee Stadium in early August, they had a chance to make it a race. In the first game of the four-game series, Mantle, Yogi Berra and Billy Martin homered to lead the Yankees to a 6-1 win. In a doubleheader sweep the next day, Whitey Ford blanked the Sox 1-0 and Bob Kuzava pitched a 3-0, one-hit shutout. For the Sox and the rest of the league, the season was as good as over.

Even though the Yankees won the pennant by 8½ games, this should have been the Brooklyn Dodgers' year. They had the league MVP, catcher Roy Campanella (41 homers, 142 RBIs), and the Rookie of the Year, second baseman Jim Gilliam. Rightfielder Carl Furillo won the batting title (.344), centerfielder Duke Snider hit 42 homers, Carl Erskine was 20-6, and manager Charlie Dressen's Dodgers won 105 games to take the National League flag by 13 games.

Postseason play, however, was a Yankee speciality. In 19 trips to the Series the Yankees had won 15 times. The Dodgers had won seven pennants but had yet to win a World Series. They were overdue, and they were in the unfamiliar position of being favored.

When President Eisenhower heard that the Yanks had jumped out to a big lead in the first game of the World Series, he reportedly commented to his once and future presidential rival Adlai Stevenson, "It's time for a change." At about the same time, former president Harry Truman told reporters, "The Yankees are getting to be a habit, and it's time somebody did something about it." It seemed an act of Congress would be required to beat the Bronx Bombers.

Games 3 and 4 belonged to Brooklyn, but the Yankees won all the rest, with Mantle slugging homers in Games 2 and 5 and Martin setting a record for hits in a six-game Series with 12.

In this season of records, the Yankees earned an unprecedented winner's share of \$8,280.68, although that record didn't last for long. Casey and his club had won their fifth world title in a row—a mark that still stands, and looks sturdier with every passing season.

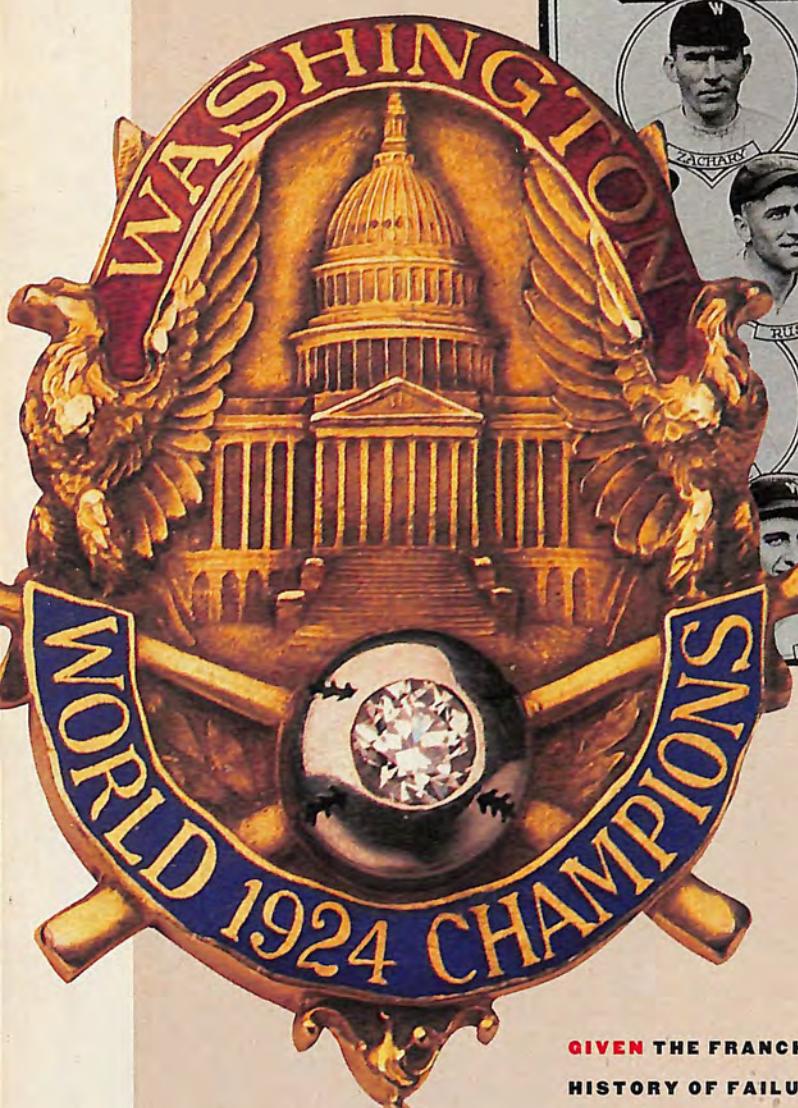


PRESIDENT COOLIDGE
ATTENDED THE SERIES
FESTIVITIES (TOP) AT
GRIFFITH STADIUM AS
THE SENATORS TRIED
TO JUSTIFY THEIR
UNEXPECTED PRESENCE

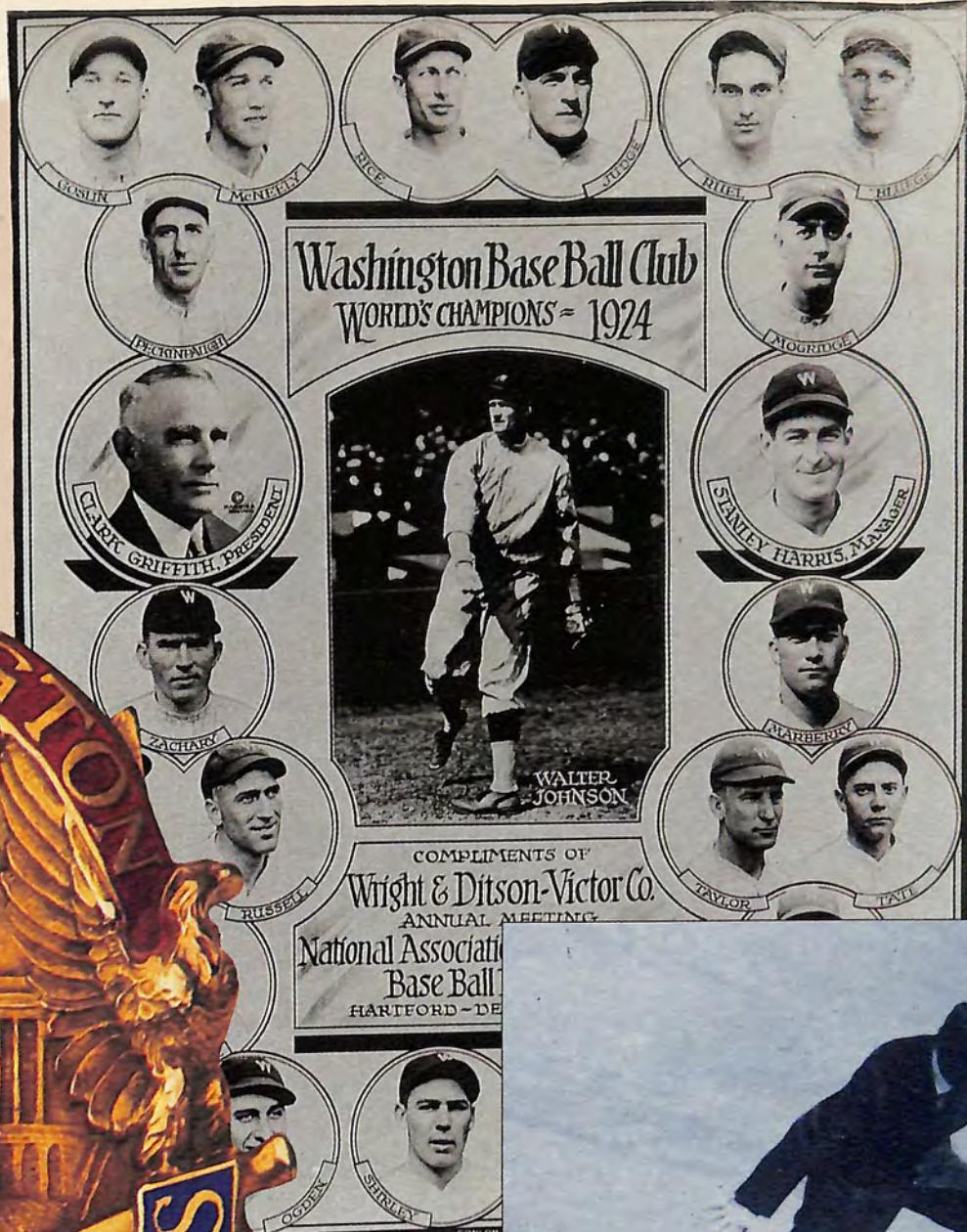


A WORLD SERIES
GATHERING OF
BASEBALL CELEBRITIES
INCLUDED (FROM LEFT)
TY COBB, BABE RUTH,
JOHN MCGRAW,
WALTER JOHNSON
AND GEORGE SISLER

THE
1924
 SENATORS



GIVEN THE FRANCHISE'S
 HISTORY OF FAILURE,
 FEW ANTICIPATED THAT
 THE SENATORS WOULD
 TURN OUT TO BE A GEM
 OF A BALL CLUB



BEFORE '24 THE
 SENATORS WERE A
 RUNNING JOKE IN THE
 NATION'S CAPITAL:
 "WASHINGTON—FIRST
 IN WAR, FIRST IN
 PEACE, LAST IN THE
 AMERICAN LEAGUE."
 THAT CHANGED WHEN
 JOHNSON AND HIS
 MATES WENT FROM
 CHUMPS TO CHAMPIONS



were the Cinderella team, the sensation of baseball. Then Johnson lost a couple of heartbreakers, the club slumped, and in July the Senators fell back to third.

"They're finding their level," cynics said. The cynics were wrong. The Senators were a band of unknowns, except for Johnson, but had exceptional players at nearly every position, including catcher Muddy Ruel, first baseman Joe Judge, shortstop Roger Peckinpaugh, third baseman Ossie Bluege, leftfielder Goose Goslin and rightfielder Sam Rice. (Along with Johnson, Goslin and Rice made it to the Hall of Fame.) In August of '24 the Senators got hot again. They regained the lead, held off the heavily favored Yankees and won the pennant by two games. Johnson finished 23-7, his best season in years; he led the league in wins, ERA, shutouts and strikeouts and was named MVP. More important, one month before his 37th birthday he was finally on a pennant winner.

He pitched the opening game of the World Series against the favored New York Giants, National League champs for the fourth straight season. Johnson struck out 12 but lost the game in the 12th inning, 4-3. Undaunted, the Senators won the next day, lost Game 3, but beat the Giants in the Game 4 to tie the Series again. The stage was set for Johnson to take command in Game 5, but he was hit hard and lost again, 6-2. He suddenly seemed awfully old.

But the Senators eked out a 2-1 victory behind Tom Zachary in Game 6; lightly regarded Washington had won three games from John McGraw's famous Giants, and the great Walter Johnson had won none of them. In the seventh game the Giants held a 3-1 lead in the eighth, and the Senators looked doomed. But Harris drove in two runs to tie the score, and in the ninth, to the delight of the Washington crowd, Johnson came in from the bullpen for his only relief appearance of the year. He was shaky as the game went into extra innings—he gave up a triple, two singles, two walks and a stolen base—but he struck out five and kept the Giants from scoring.

Johnson was still the Washington pitcher and the game was still tied when the Senators came to bat in the bottom of the 12th. With one out, Ruel lifted a foul pop-up near home plate, but the Giants' catcher, Hank Gowdy, stumbled over his mask and failed to catch the ball. Given a second chance, Ruel doubled. Johnson reached base on an error. Then, in one of the famous plays in World Series history, rookie outfielder Earl McNeely hit a sharp ground ball that bounced off a pebble and flitted over the head of third baseman Fred Lindstrom for a base hit. Ruel scored the winning run, the upstart Senators were champions of the world, and Walter Johnson, at long last, had a World Series victory. A pious Senators fan explained, "The good Lord just couldn't let Walter lose again."



THE HUSTLING HARRIS
MANAGED BY EXAMPLE.
IN GAME 2, HE SLID
SAFELY INTO THIRD
UNDER THE TAG OF
LINDSTROM, AND HIS
INSPIRED CHARGES
WENT ON TO WIN 4-3

IN WASHINGTON, TO
POSSESS A WORLD
SERIES TICKET WAS
UNPRECEDENTED.
AFTER A BALL BOUNCED
CRAZILY OFF A PEBBLE,
THE DUCAT BECAME A
VALUABLE SOUVENIR



OAKLAND ATHLETICS



Awesome A's

It took an earthquake to slow this team down

It's not often that a team that has won just one World Series title evokes the word *dynasty*. But in 1989, after the Oakland Athletics had powered their way through the postseason, some people couldn't help themselves. One person in particular, the A's garrulous and talented rightfielder Jose Canseco, didn't mind at all applying that tag to his team.

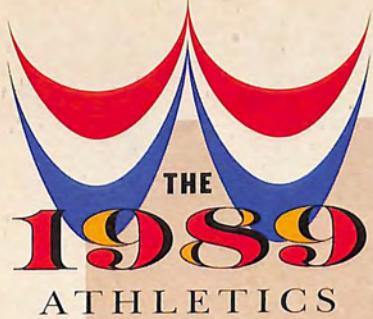
"We're a dynasty," Canseco said. "If you look at this combination of players—if you analyze this team from one through nine in the lineup—you see that we're an amazing team." Of course, Canseco was getting ahead of himself. While his team had been to consecutive World Series, they had come away the victors just once. But he wasn't the only one who believed that the 1989 Oakland club was a dynasty in the making.

From the first day of spring training, the '89 A's were a team on a mission of redemption. A year earlier, they had won 104 regular-season games and swept the Boston Red Sox in the American League Championship Series, only to lose the World Series in five games to the undermanned Los Angeles Dodgers. The winter months were filled with speculation that the Dodgers had exposed weaknesses in the Oakland lineup. The Athletics were out to prove those critics wrong. "The world didn't see the real Oakland A's last year," said third baseman Carney Lansford. "We're sick and tired of hearing how the Dodgers figured out what we couldn't hit. We just want to get back there and get a Series ring."

THE ADDITION OF RICKEY HENDERSON (TOP, RIGHT), WHO WAS STOLEN FROM THE YANKEES, TURNED OAKLAND INTO A DOMINATING TEAM. ECKERSLEY'S RETURN PUT THE A'S IN THE BATTLE OF THE BAY, WHICH WAS SHAKEN BY THE QUAKE







THE
1989
ATHLETICS

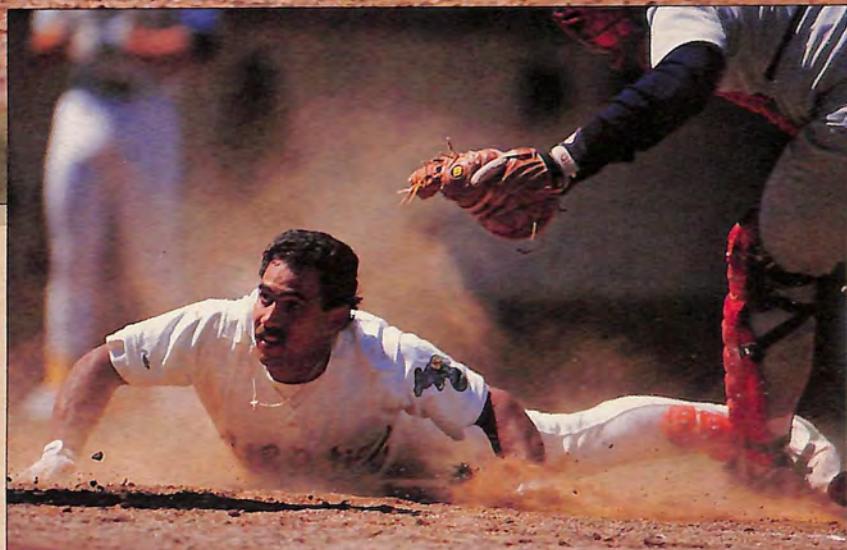


"Experience," shortstop Walt Weiss added, "doesn't mean anything until you have it."

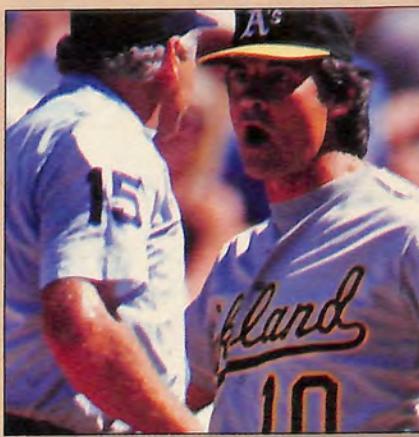
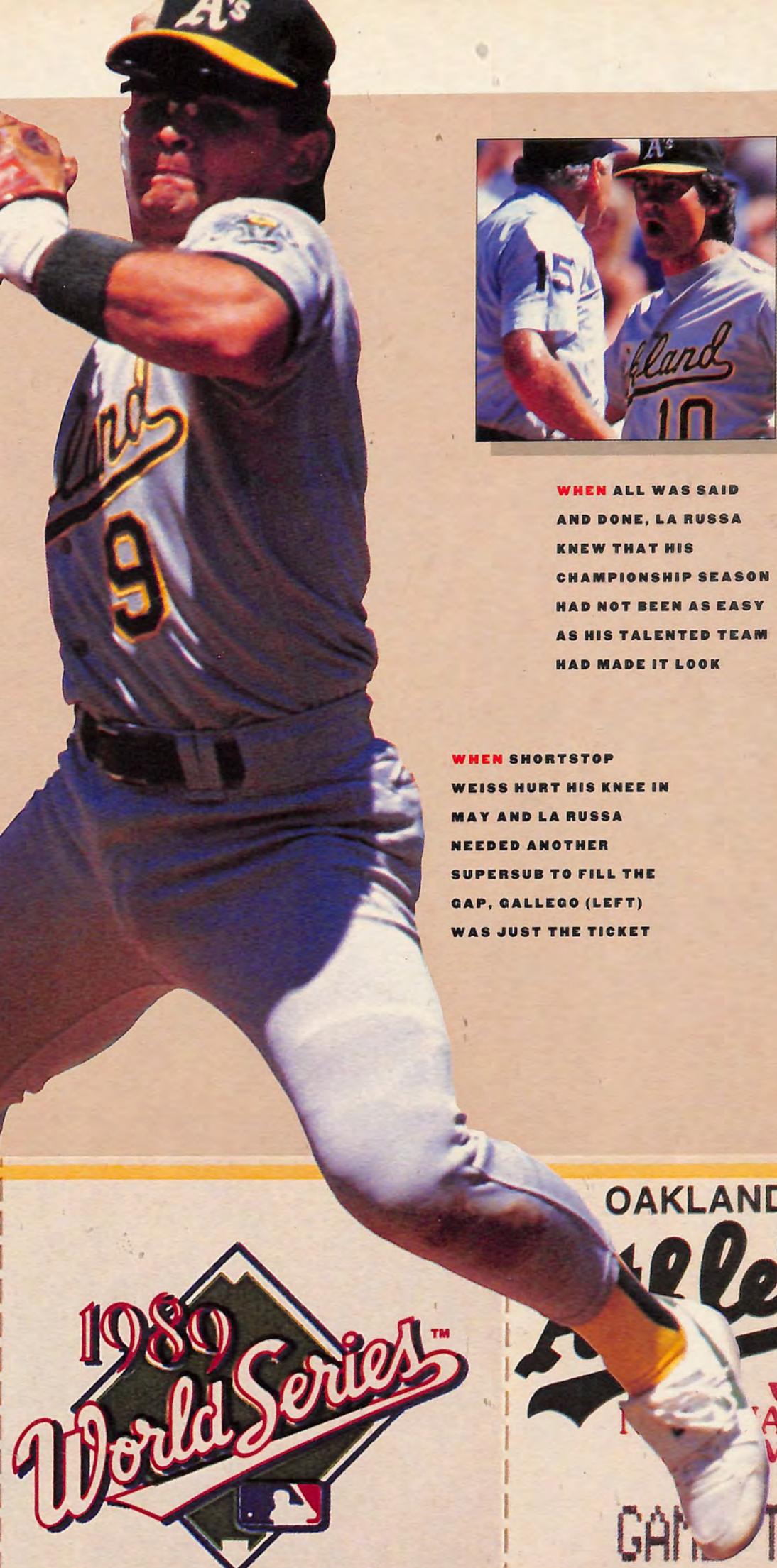
As the season progressed, this Oakland team had several factors working in its favor that the previous year's club didn't have. The '89 season brought the A's competition in their division (both the Kansas City Royals and the California Angels won more than 90 games) and competition for space in the Oakland trainers' room. But in the end the Athletics proved both powerful and resilient. "We got here a different way than last season, when we just steamrolled everybody," said second baseman Tony Phillips after the World Series was over. "We had to battle."

For the first four months of the season, A's manager Tony La Russa was forced to play fill-in-the-blanks with his lineup card. Injuries to his two biggest offensive guns, Canseco and first baseman Mark McGwire, as well as to Weiss and closer Dennis Eckersley, left La Russa shorthanded for much of the year. He inserted little-known reserves—Stan Javier, Billy Beane—into some of those vacated slots and moved a few of his versatile role-players—Terry Steinbach, Mike Gallego—into the others.

The most important insertion into the lineup, however, arrived on June 20. In a veritable heist, A's general manager Sandy Alderson



THE A'S MACHINE
REQUIRED SOME
VALUABLE SPARE
PARTS, INCLUDING
JAVIER (ABOVE), WHO
FILLED IN FOR THE
INJURED CANSECO



**WHEN ALL WAS SAID
AND DONE, LA RUSSA
KNEW THAT HIS
CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON
HAD NOT BEEN AS EASY
AS HIS TALENTED TEAM
HAD MADE IT LOOK**

**WHEN SHORTSTOP
WEISS HURT HIS KNEE IN
MAY AND LA RUSSA
NEEDED ANOTHER
SUPERSUB TO FILL THE
GAP, GALLEGO (LEFT)
WAS JUST THE TICKET**

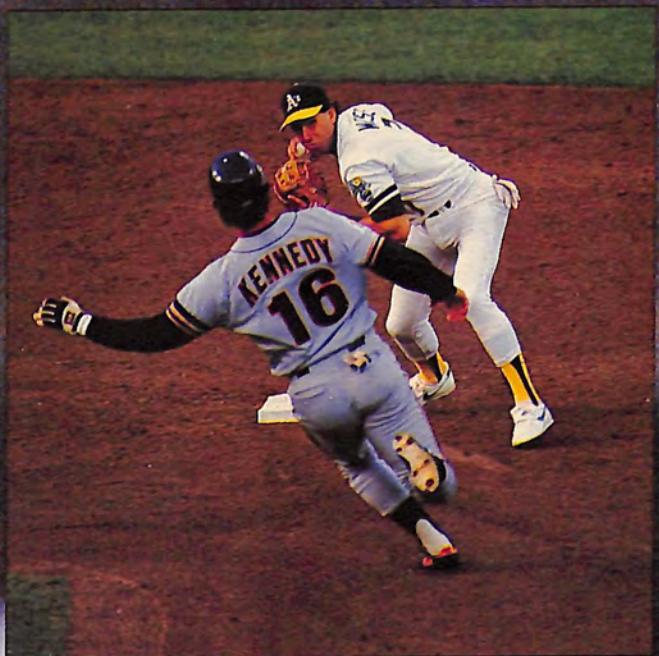
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GAME 2

1989 World Series™

THE FALL CLASSIC™

OAKLAND Athletics
vs.
1989 NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS
GAME TWO

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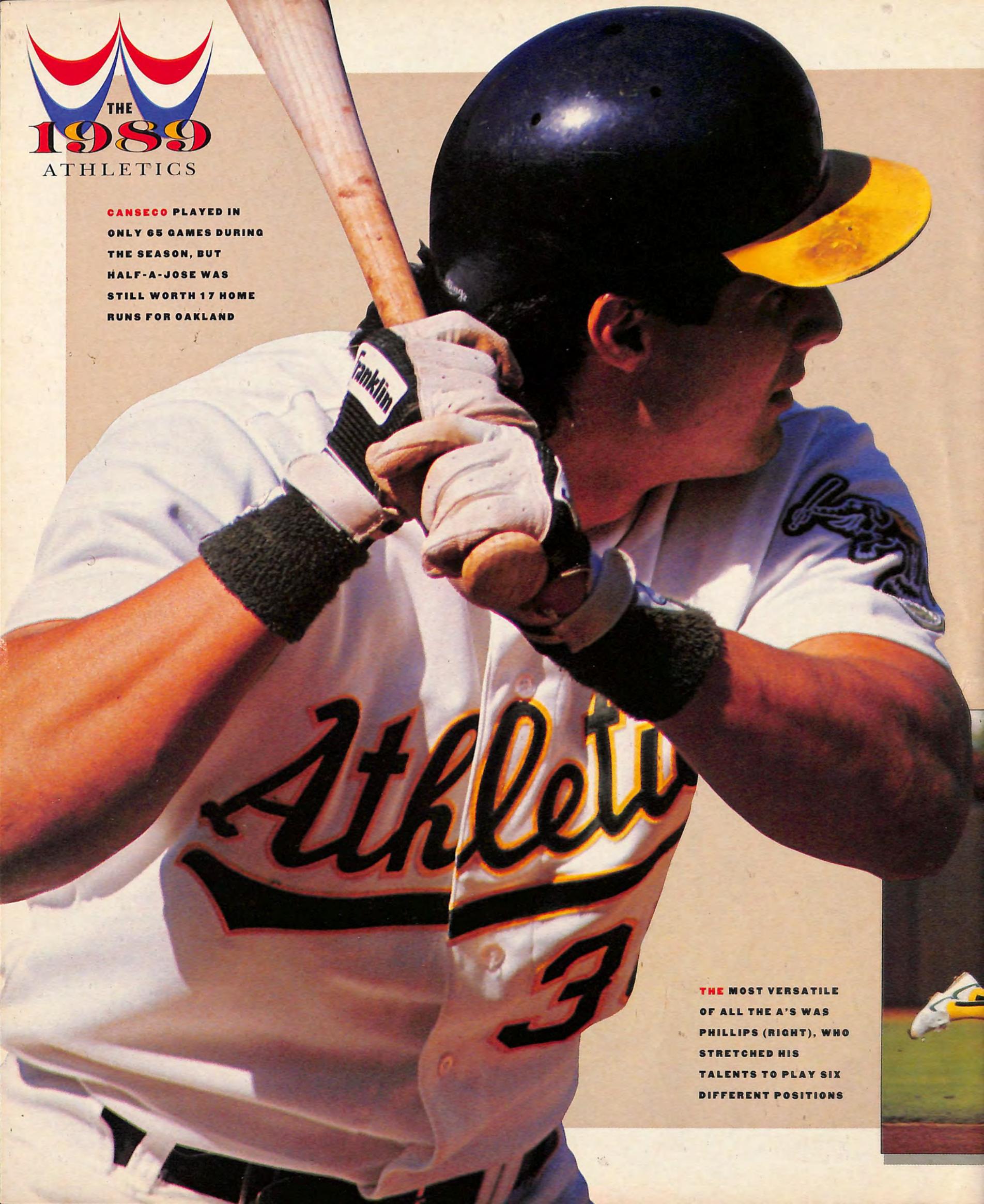
THE
1989
ATHLETICS

WEISS WAS HEALTHY AGAIN BY WORLD SERIES TIME, AND HIS PIVOTAL PERFORMANCE IN THE FIELD, ALONG WITH A HOME RUN IN GAME 1, HELPED TO SLAY THE GIANTS



THE
1989
ATHLETICS

CANSECO PLAYED IN
ONLY 65 GAMES DURING
THE SEASON, BUT
HALF-A-JOSE WAS
STILL WORTH 17 HOME
RUNS FOR OAKLAND



THE MOST VERSATILE
OF ALL THE A'S WAS
PHILLIPS (RIGHT), WHO
STRETCHED HIS
TALENTS TO PLAY SIX
DIFFERENT POSITIONS



worked a trade with the New York Yankees for Rickey Henderson, one of the game's alltime great leadoff hitters and base stealers. The trade cost the A's just two middle relief pitchers and a spare outfielder. "I think he's the single most devastating weapon in baseball," said La Russa. "Put him in your lineup and he's worth two or three runs. Then surround him with Canseco and McGwire and he's going to get them runs, too."

Henderson brought new life to the A's offense. He reached base in 80 of the 85 games he played, stole 52 bases and scored 72 runs. The A's played 20 games over .500 after his arrival and pulled away from the challenging Angels in late September. Meanwhile, the rest of La Russa's arsenal began to come around as players regained their health and confidence. Canseco, who wasn't activated until after the All-Star break, hit 17 home runs in just 65 games. Eckersley returned after a 40-game layoff and ended up saving 33 games. "We're hitting on all cylinders now," catcher Terry Steinbach said in October. "Everything is going right."

In the American League Championship Series, the A's disposed of the Toronto Blue Jays in five games. Henderson put together perhaps the greatest offensive performance in ALCS history. All told, he led the series in runs (eight), on-base percentage (.609), slugging (1.000), home runs (two), RBIs (five), total bases (15), steals (eight) and walks (seven). "What are you going to do?" asked Canseco. "You

walk him and he steals second and third. You pitch to him and he hits a home run."

The A's continued to roll in the World Series with 5-0 and 5-1 victories at home over the San Francisco Giants, with starters Dave Stewart and Mike Moore getting the wins. The so-called Battle of the Bay took a catastrophic turn when the Series moved to Candlestick Park. Just 30 minutes before Game 3 was to start, the Bay Area was rocked by an earthquake that registered 7.1 on the Richter scale. The damage at Candlestick was minimal, but the region was devastated; the resumption of the Series was placed on hold as the area worked toward recovery. Twelve days passed before the two clubs met again to decide the outcome of what commissioner Fay Vincent now called "a modest little sporting event." In workmanlike fashion, the A's finished off the Giants in Games 3 and 4.

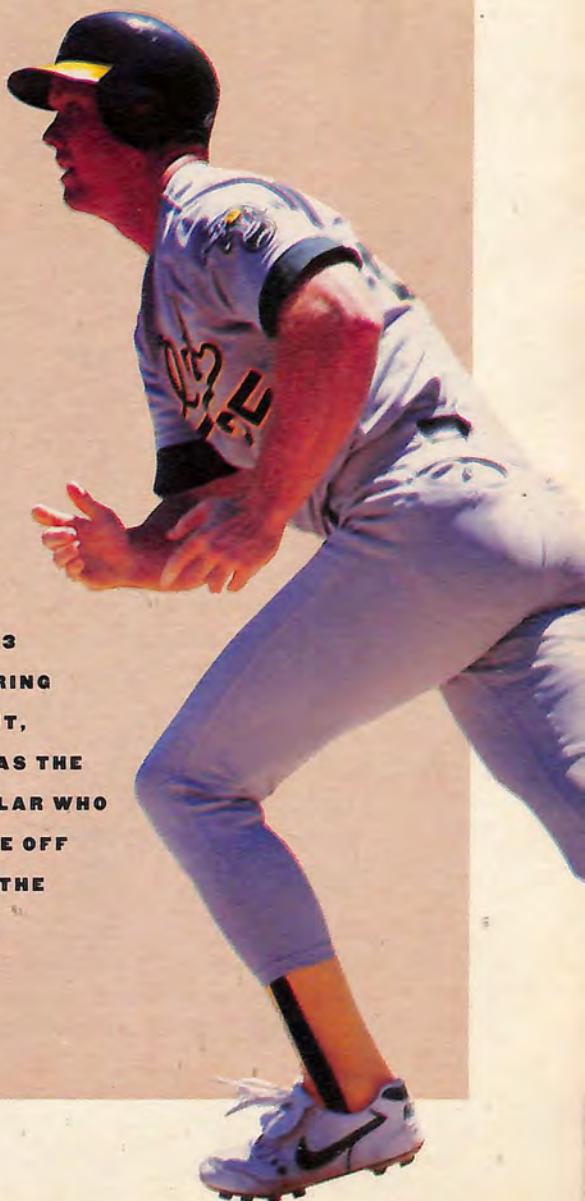
The significance of the World Series was diminished by the earthquake, but the brilliance of this Oakland club was not questioned. "The A's were a tidal wave," said Giants catcher Terry Kennedy, "and we just couldn't get in their way."

Nothing could get in the way of the '89 A's. It was a team that barreled its way through every obstacle. "You can take any part of this season," said La Russa, "and there was this guy missing, that guy missing, these guys missing, and we kept finding ways to win games. I hope people realize how special this team is."

**OAKLAND FANS
ENJOYED STICKING IT
TO THEIR RIVALS
ACROSS THE BAY**



**MCWIRE HIT 33
HOME RUNS DURING
THE SEASON BUT,
AMAZINGLY, WAS THE
ONLY A'S REGULAR WHO
DID NOT HIT ONE OFF
THE GIANTS IN THE
WORLD SERIES**



THE
1934
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS



It Was a Gas

The Gashouse Gang won while having fun

They were the Gashouse Gang, probably the wildest and craziest guys ever to play the game. "They are not afraid of anybody," wrote New York sportswriter Frank Graham of these 1934 St. Louis Cardinals. "They will risk arms, legs and necks—their own and the other fellow's."

Their lineup was flavored with some of the game's most erratic personalities—Frankie Frisch, Leo Durocher, the Dean Brothers, Pepper Martin, Wild Bill Hallahan—and their hell-for-leather style captivated a nation mired in the Great Depression. If the Yankees were baseball's aristocrats, then the Gashousers were its working stiffs. And they had more fun than anybody.

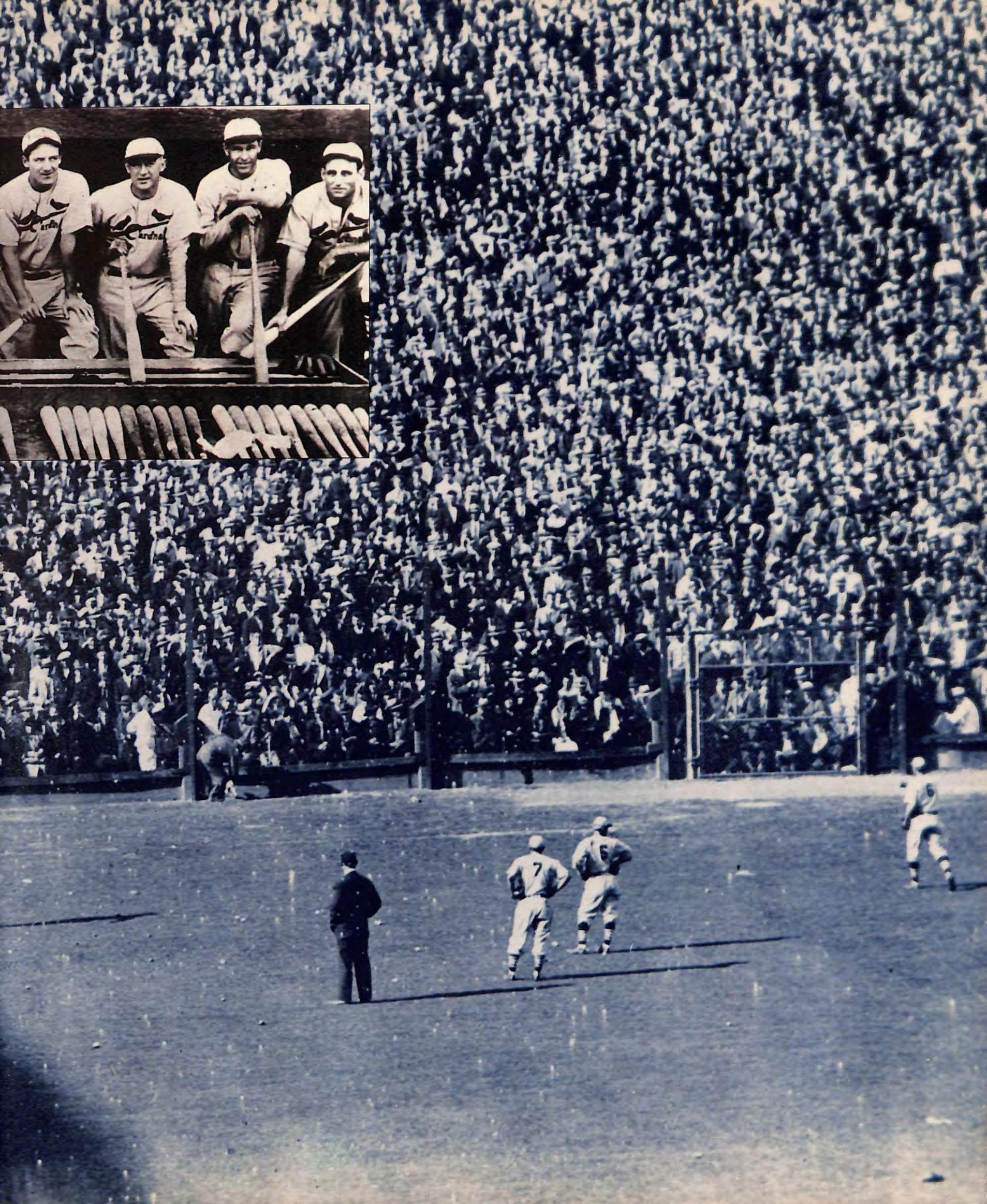
"If you can do it," Dizzy Dean would say, "it ain't braggin'." Diz could do it. Before the season began, he blithely predicted that "me and Paul" would win at least 40 games, although Paul Dean, Dizzy's younger brother, was only a rookie. Diz, for once, was guilty of understatement. He won 30 and lost seven; Paul, 2 1/2 years younger at 21, won 19 and lost 11. Dizzy led the National League in wins, strikeouts (195), complete games (24) and shutouts (seven). Paul, a quiet youngster inappropriately nicknamed Daffy to complement his brother's appellation, pitched five shutouts of his own. In one doubleheader, Daffy followed Dizzy's three-hitter with a no-hitter.

The Deans were the most conspicuous stars in the Gashouse Gang, but there were others. First baseman Jimmy (Ripper) Collins had a career season in '34, batting .333 and tying Mel Ott for the home run

THE GASHOUSERS

(ABOVE, FROM LEFT):
DIZ, DUROCHER, ERNIE
ORSATTI, BILL
DELANCEY, COLLINS,
MEDWICK, FRISCH, JACK
ROTHROCK AND MARTIN.
IN GAME 7 (RIGHT),
WHEN DETROIT FANS
GREETED THE RETURN
OF MEDWICK (7) TO
LEFTFIELD WITH A
BARRAGE OF GARBAGE,
COMMISSIONER LANDIS
HAD TO REMOVE HIM
FROM THE GAME





THE 1934 CARDINALS

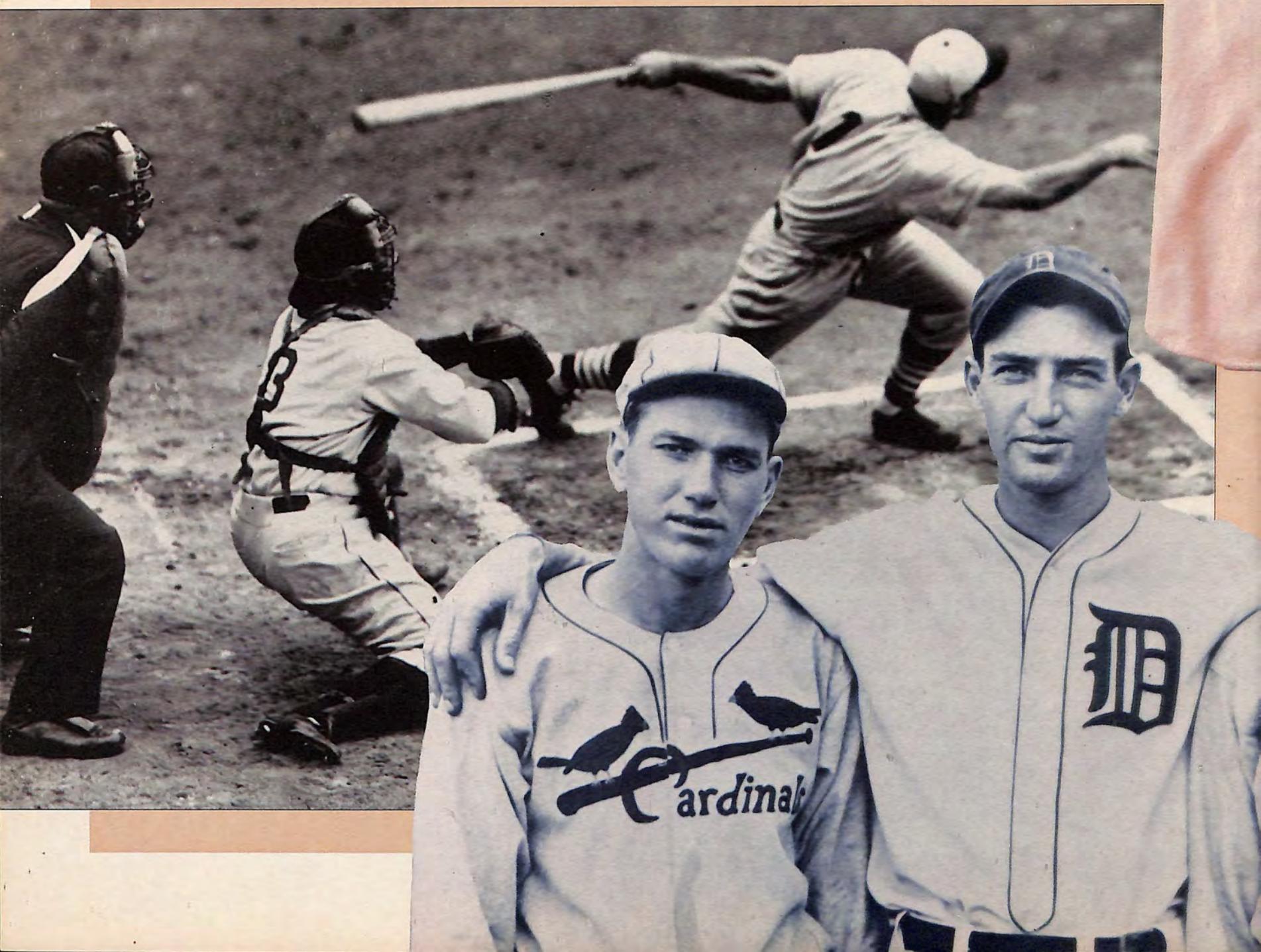
title with 35. Frisch, the 36-year-old player-manager, hit .305 and turned in his customary stellar performance at second base. Joe (Ducky) Medwick, then only 22, hit .319 with 18 homers. Martin, the "Wild Hoss of the

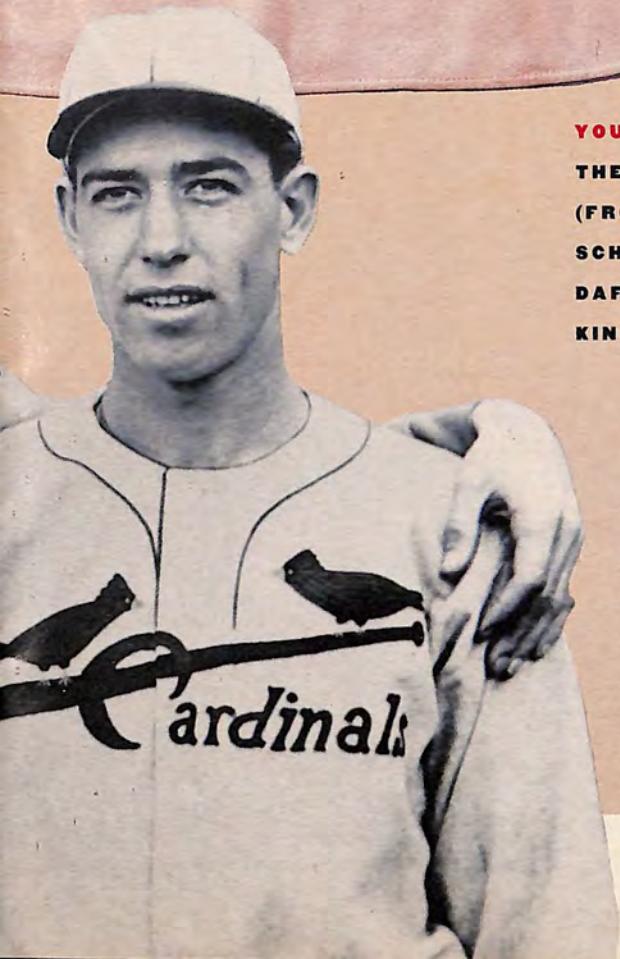
Osage," was the quintessential Gashouse gangster. He fielded grounders off his chest at third and slid into bases headfirst in a cloud of dust. He had the dirtiest uniform in baseball and the most bizarre sense of humor. He drove racing cars in the outfield, passed out exploding cigars and dropped water bombs out of hotel windows. Once, he and Dizzy, posing as plumbers, were in the process of removing a hotel barbershop's sink when they were caught.

The Gashousers overtook a heavily favored New York Giants team in a tight National League race, winning 20 of their last 25 games. The World Series with Detroit was tumultuous. In the fourth game, Dizzy was conked on the head while running the bases by a throw from Tiger shortstop Billy Rogell. He was carried off the field and briefly hospitalized. The next day Diz issued the medical report to the press: "They took an X-ray of my head and found nothing." He came back from the beaning to pitch Game 5, which he lost 3-1; but

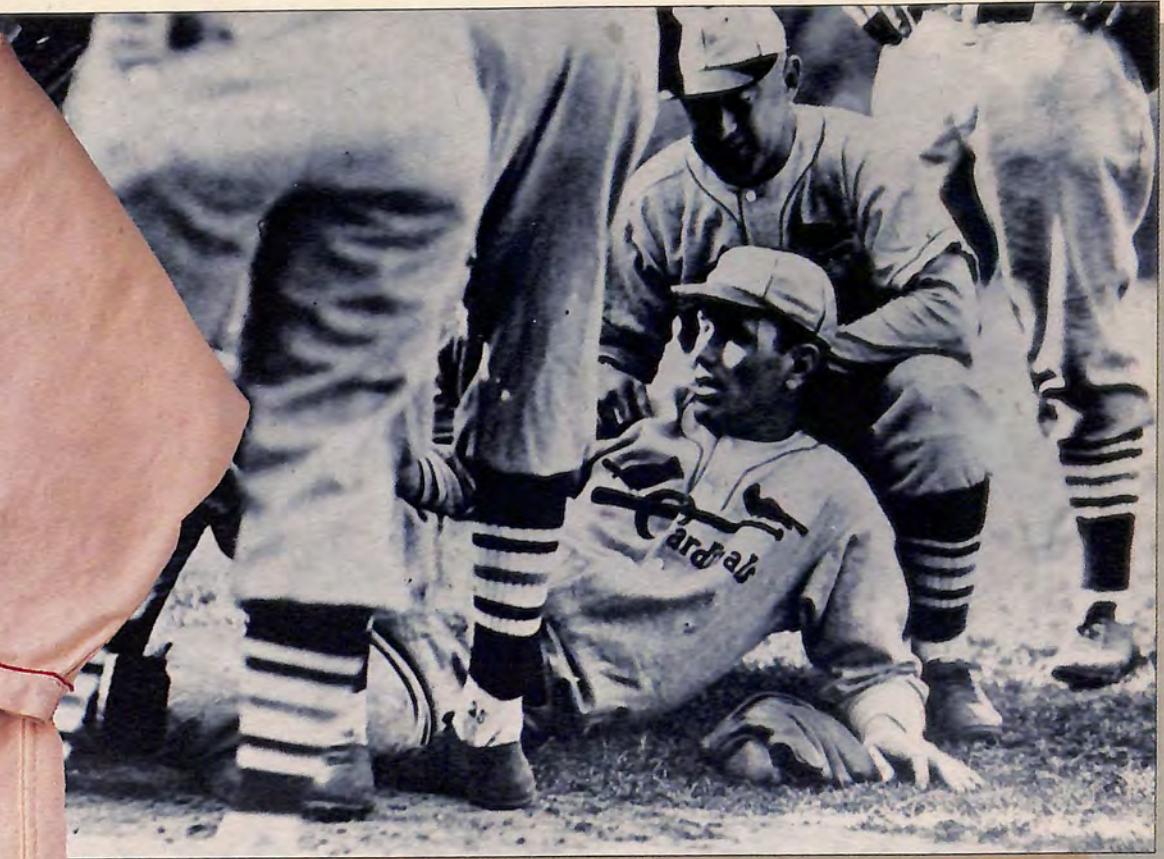
ONLY IN THE HALL OF
FAME COULD THE
UNIFORM OF A '34
CARDINAL BE SO CLEAN

MARTIN (BELOW,
STROKING ONE OF HIS
11 SERIES HITS) WAS
THE QUINTESSENTIAL
GASHOUSE GANGSTER,
FOND OF STEALING
BASES AS WELL AS
HOTEL SINKS





YOUTH WAS SERVED IN
THE '34 SERIES, AS
(FROM LEFT) DIZZY, 23,
SCHOOLBOY, 24, AND
DAFFY, 21, WERE THE
KINGS OF THE HILL



DEAN WAS KNOCKED
DIRTY BY A BEANING ON
THE BASE PATHS IN
GAME 4 BUT BOUNCED
BACK WITH A FEW
CHOICE ONE-LINERS
AND A BRILLIANT
GAME 7 SHUTOUT

brother Paul kept the Cards alive in Game 6 with a 4-3 win over Tiger phenom Schoolboy Rowe. In the seventh game, at Detroit, Diz was back on the mound and in command as he shut out the Tigers 11-0—but he was far from the whole show in that riotous encounter.

In the sixth inning, Medwick, running out a triple Gashouse-style, slammed into Detroit third baseman Marv (Spec) Owen and sent him sprawling. When Ducky returned to his position in leftfield in the Tigers' half of the inning, the angry Detroit fans showered him with anything they could get their hands on, mostly fruits and vegetables. When it became apparent that the bombardment would not subside, baseball commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis ordered Medwick removed from the game so that it might continue.

Ol' Diz, as he liked to call himself, didn't think much of the Tigers or their fans. "Say, but wasn't those Tigers funny," he remarked afterward. "I never saw a team get stage fright that bad. I hope I won't be like that when I go into vaudeville."

Sportscasting, not acting, would be Dean's eventual occupation after a sore arm cut short his magnificent career. Alas, most Gashousers had short baseball lives. Medwick never really recovered from a 1940 beaning, Collins lasted only nine years, and Martin played only two more seasons as a regular. Paul Dean won 19 again in 1935 and then, afflicted with his own arm ailments, won only 12 more in the seven seasons that remained for him. It's just possible that the Gashouse Gang played too hard to last long.

THE
1915

BOSTON RED SOX



Savvy Sox

The Bostonians of 1915 were well schooled in the art of defense

Yes, it is true that Babe Ruth played for this club, but the 1915 Boston Red Sox were not, by any stretch of the imagination, a team of sluggers. In winning 101 American League games, these sockless Sox hit just 14 homers, four of them by team leader Ruth, and their only .300-hitting regular was Tris Speaker, who finished the season at .322—with zero home runs. No, these Sox won with pitching and a rock-solid defense led by an outfield trio that many consider the best defensively in the history of the game: Speaker in center, Duffy Lewis in left and Harry Hooper in right.

George Herman Ruth, 20 years old and in his first full season as a big leaguer, was a lefthanded pitcher who won 18 and lost eight, threw 16 complete games and had an earned run average of 2.44. In 92 times at bat he hit .315 and clouted the first four of his career 714 home runs. He didn't even look much like the future Sultan of Swat. Hooper describes him in Lawrence Ritter's *The Glory of Their Times* this way: "George was six-foot-two and weighed 198 pounds, all of it muscle. He had a slim waist, huge biceps, no self-discipline and not much education."

Hooper was a college man, a graduate of St. Mary's in the San Francisco Bay Area, which was also the alma mater of outfield mate Lewis. Speaker had briefly attended college in Texas, so it may be said of that famous outfield that it was not only the best of its time



CATCHER HICK CADY

(ABOVE, LEFT) AND SHORE (ABOVE, RIGHT) FORMED THE BOSTON BATTERY FOR GAME 1 OF THE SERIES (SCORECARD RIGHT). SHORE LOST THE OPENER TO ALEXANDER BUT CAME BACK TO WIN GAME 4. WOOD (RIGHT) WAS SIDELINED FOR THE SERIES BUT, PITCHING IN PAIN ALL SEASON, WAS THE HEART OF THE RED SOX STAFF

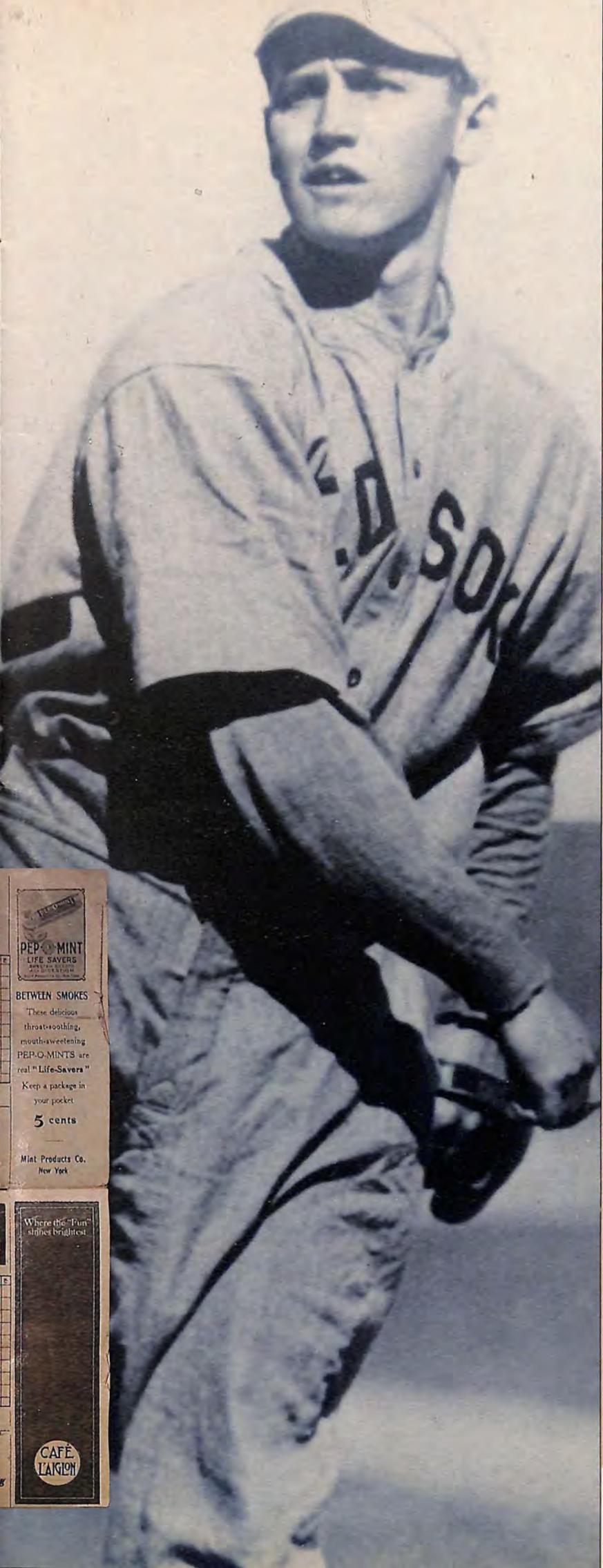
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OPPOSITE CITY HALL											
The Hotel Hanover											
EUROPEAN PRICE											
\$1.00 per person and up											
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A HANOVER SPECIAL											
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Arch and Teal PARADE											
Takes a drink of School											
Take your seat in the											
CLAUDE M.											

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but also the best educated. What's more, the whole team was handled in intelligent fashion by manager Bill Carrigan, a Holy Cross man.

Speaker, who is generally rated with Joe DiMaggio and Willie Mays as the best of all centerfielders, was renowned for playing so close to the infield that he occasionally got involved in base-path rundown. And no one, it is said, could go back on a ball better than Speaker. In these days before the Green Monster, Lewis played the inclined embankment at the base of Fenway Park's leftfield fence (the turf sloped down toward the infield) so expertly that the terrain became known as Duffy's Cliff. And Speaker was the only outfielder in the game then who was Hooper's superior.

Star Red Sox pitcher Smokey Joe Wood, who certainly prospered by having both Speaker and Hooper in the same outfield, told Ritter, "It's a real shame Harry was on the same club as Spoke [Speaker], having to play all those years in his shadow." All three of the outfielders had rifle arms. Hooper had 23 outfield assists in 1915. Speaker, who led the league with 378 putouts, had 21 and Lewis 15. The infield had Dick Hoblitzell at first, Heinie Wagner or Jack Barry (who had been the shortstop on Connie Mack's \$100,000 infield of a few years earlier) at second, Everett Scott (who would play a record 1,307 consecutive games before Lou Gehrig surpassed him) at short, and Larry Gardner, he of the "trolley line throw to first," at third.

There was not a 20-game winner on the Boston staff in 1915, but pitching was this team's real strength. It was a question of balance, and the Red Sox had it. George (Rube) Foster was 19-8, Ruth and Ernie Shore were both 18-8, Wood was 15-5 and Hubert (Dutch) Leonard 15-7. Ruth's 2.44 ERA was the highest among starters on a staff with a collective ERA of 2.39. Rookie Carl Mays, who five years later would throw a fatal pitch to the head of Cleveland's Ray Chapman, led the league with seven saves in this era of little relief.

The Red Sox starters, none of whom were older than Foster's 26, were so durable that only three of them—Foster, Leonard and Shore—were needed to subdue the Philadelphia Phillies in a five-game World Series. Each of them pitched a complete game. In the opener, Shore lost to the Phillies' great Grover Cleveland Alexander, 3-1; but then Foster, Leonard and Shore won consecutive one-run games, each of them by the score of 2-1. Foster won the Series finale in a veritable slugfest, 5-4, courtesy of two Hooper home runs.

Neither Ruth nor Wood pitched in the Series (Ruth went hitless in one at bat), but they would prove to be the storybook figures from this team. Ruth would play strictly as a pitcher for only two more years; he played 59 games in the outfield in 1918, and in 1919, his last season with the Red Sox, he set the major league home run record of 29, a standard he would break many times during his glory years with the Yankees.

In 1912 at the age of 22, Wood had won 34 games, 16 of them in succession; but he hurt his right arm in spring training the next year and pitched thereafter in what he described as "almost unbearable pain." After a game on the mound he could scarcely raise his arm above his waist. "I had to use my left hand to put my right hand in my coat pocket," he told Ritter. And yet in 1915 he completed 14 of 16 starts and led the American League in winning percentage (.750) and in ERA (1.49). But that was the end of Smokey Joe's pitching career. He sat out the 1916 season and returned to the game in 1917 with the Cleveland Indians, pitching just 15 innings; he extended his career five more years by moving to the outfield, and retired for good in 1922. Then, in keeping with the collegiate heritage of those scholarly Sox, Wood coached baseball for 20 years at Yale.



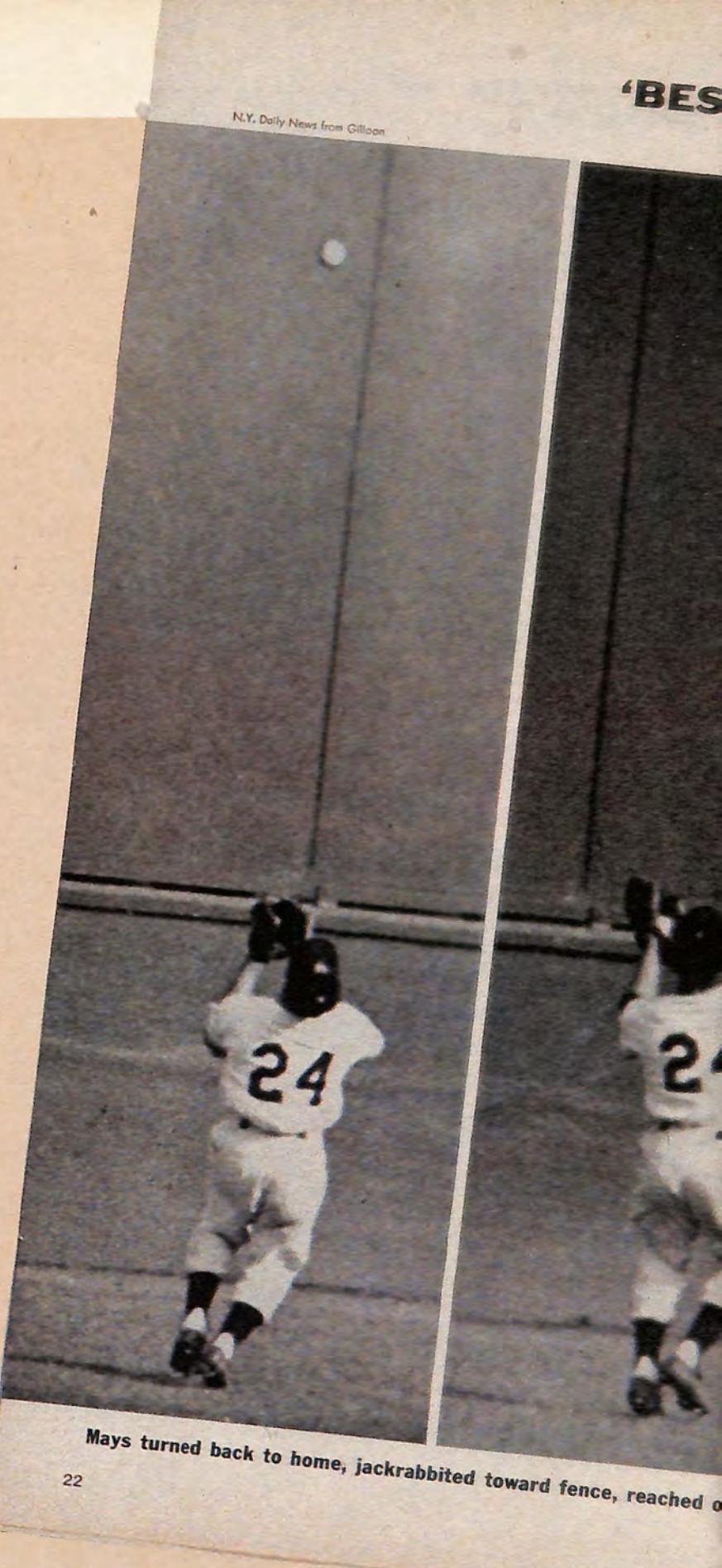
Got It!

Willie Mays and the Giants snatched the title from powerful Cleveland

It was a club that had finished a dismal fifth in 1953, but that seemed like distant history in the spring of '54 as the New York Giants hailed the return of Willie Mays. Back from a 21-month stint as an Army private on Uncle Sam's team, Mays got off a plane in Phoenix and, in his first spring training appearance in the batting cage, hit a ball over the centerfield fence. "Why tinker with a guy like that?" asked Giants manager Leo Durocher. But tinker Durocher did. And it worked.

This was Leo's team. From spring training through the stunning World Series sweep of the powerful Cleveland Indians, Durocher made all the right moves, even when they looked wrong. In July, with Mays on a pace that challenged Babe Ruth's home run record of 60, Durocher, amazingly enough, decided to alter Willie's batting stance, bringing him out of his crouch and moving his feet closer together. Mays hit only five home runs in the remaining 55 games, but the hits came at a .379 clip and Mays finished with a league-leading .345 average, driving in 110 runs in the process.

The other key addition to the Giants roster had been made in February. The impending return of Mays meant that the Giants could part with an outfielder. The Milwaukee Braves, desperate for a righthanded power hitter, expressed interest in Bobby Thomson, the man whose famed home run had won the 1951 pennant for the

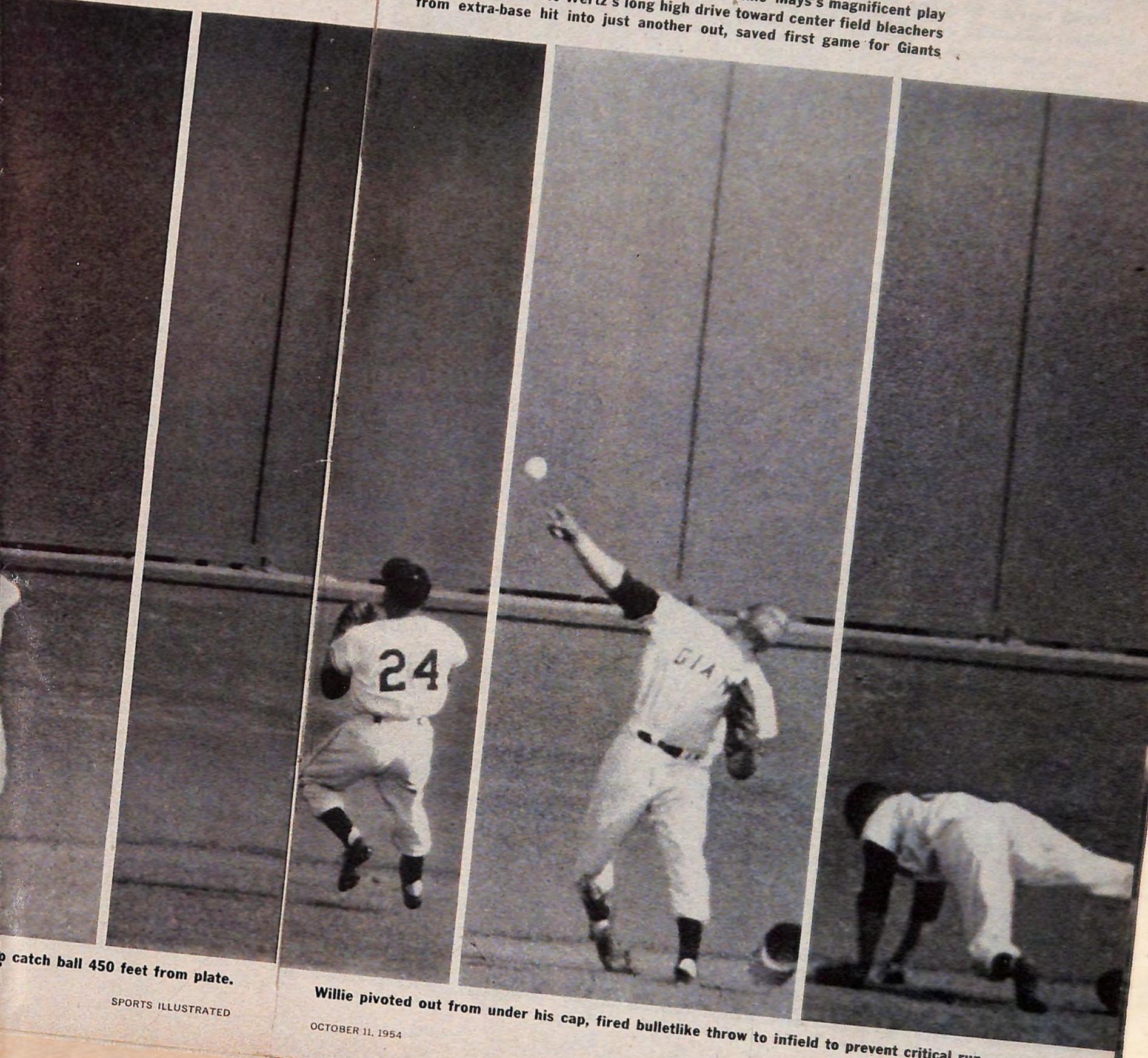


Mays turned back to home, jackrabbed toward fence, reached o

**KNOWN EVER AFTER SIMPLY AS
"THE CATCH," THE GRAB BY
MAYS IN GAME 1 OF THE SERIES
PROPELLED THE GIANTS TO
THEIR SHOCKING SWEEP**

CATCH I EVER SAW'

So said unhappy but admiring Al Lopez of Willie Mays's magnificent play which converted Vic Wertz's long high drive toward center field bleachers from extra-base hit into just another out, saved first game for Giants



to catch ball 450 feet from plate.

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

Willie pivoted out from under his cap, fired bulletlike throw to infield to prevent critical run

OCTOBER 11, 1954

THE 1954 GIANTS

**IN A SEASON OF
MAGICAL MANEUVERS
FOR DUROCHER (BEHIND
UMP), HE WENT TO HIS
BULLPEN FIVE TIMES IN
THE WORLD SERIES
WITH NARY A MISS. IN
SEVEN TOTAL INNINGS
HIS RELIEVERS GAVE UP
TWO HITS, NO RUNS**



**OUTSIDE THE POLO
GROUNDS, NEW
YORKERS LINED UP
EARLY—A FULL DAY
BEFORE THE SERIES
STARTED—FOR A SHOT
AT TICKETS**



HARRY M. STEVENS, Inc., Publisher, 320 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK



AFTER THEIR TEAM'S LOUSY SEASON IN '53, GIANTS FANS GREETED THE WORLD SERIES AS AN UNEXPECTED DELIGHT. EVEN BETTER, THE HATED YANKEES WEREN'T IN IT



Giants. Despite a sentimental attachment to Thomson, owner Horace Stoneham listened when Durocher pushed to trade Thomson for Braves southpaw Johnny Antonelli.

Fans and sportswriters questioned the deal. Antonelli's career record was a mediocre 17-22 when he joined the Giants, but Leo saw something he liked. A \$65,000 bonus baby in 1948, Antonelli had spent most of his first three seasons on the bench. "I sat around doing nothing," Antonelli complained. "I wasn't a pitcher, I was a tourist." In 1954 Antonelli's trips to the mound resulted in 21 wins (he lost only seven) and a league-leading 2.30 ERA. Antonelli and the rest of the New York pitching staff became the best in the National League. With a steady defense, the Giants held opponents to two runs or less 64 times, and won 60 of those games.

The Giants won the pennant by five games over the Brooklyn Dodgers, but they were still heavy underdogs in the World Series. The Cleveland Indians, a team that had won an American League-record 111 games, were 8-to-5 favorites; bookmakers put the odds of a Giants sweep at 22-to-1. With Cleveland's powerful pitching staff—Early Wynn and Bob Lemon each had 23 wins, Mike Garcia had 19—not even the confident New Yorkers dreamed of taking four straight. Except, perhaps, Durocher.

In the eighth inning of Game 1, with the score tied at two, Leo turned to his bullpen. All season long, Durocher had used Hoyt Wilhelm (12-4, 2.10, seven saves) and Marv Grissom (10-7, 2.35, 19 saves) in relief. But now Durocher was reluctant to use Wilhelm, a knuckleballer, with the game on the line. (The memories were still fresh from the eighth inning on Sept. 10, when four Wilhelm knucklers got past Giants catcher Ray Katt—still the record for passed balls in an inning.) So it was that the 36-year-old Grissom, in his first full year as a reliever, got Leo's call. He allowed just one hit in 2 1/3 innings for the win.

While Wilhelm would become one of the greatest relief pitchers ever, it was Grissom who got the Game 1 glory—and it was a fluke that he was even playing in the major leagues at all. More than 15 years earlier, Cincinnati Reds lefthander Lee Grissom had spoken highly of his kid brother, but when the Reds brought Marv to their spring training camp in Tampa, Lee was shocked. "Him?" Lee exclaimed. "He's never played ball. I meant my other brother." But Marv (the Wrong) Grissom was the right Grissom in '54.

And in '54 even Durocher's misjudgments turned out for the best. Before the season he had asked management to get rid of outfielder Dusty Rhodes. "He can't do nothin'," Durocher had said. "He can't run. He can't field." But he could hit, and the lefthanded-hitting Rhodes stayed. So Durocher used him, and used him well: During the season Rhodes hit .333 as a pinch hitter. In the Series he was 3 for 3 off the bench, and his total contribution to the sweep—.667, two homers and seven RBIs—would certainly have earned him World Series MVP honors had the award existed.

But this Series is remembered most for a single play—The Catch. It came in the eighth inning of Game 1, with two on and nobody out, and the images are etched in baseball history: Mays streaking away from home plate, the Polo Grounds wall fast approaching, the ball disappearing over his shoulder and into his glove, Mays whirling his throw back to the infield. In a few magical strides Vic Wertz, the batter, went from World Series hero to the answer to a trivia question.

On their way to the first clean sweep for the National League in a World Series in 40 years, the Giants never trailed after the fifth inning of the second game. Durocher would never again win a World Series, but in '54 he couldn't lose.



Oh, Those O's

The Orioles winged their way to a splendid season

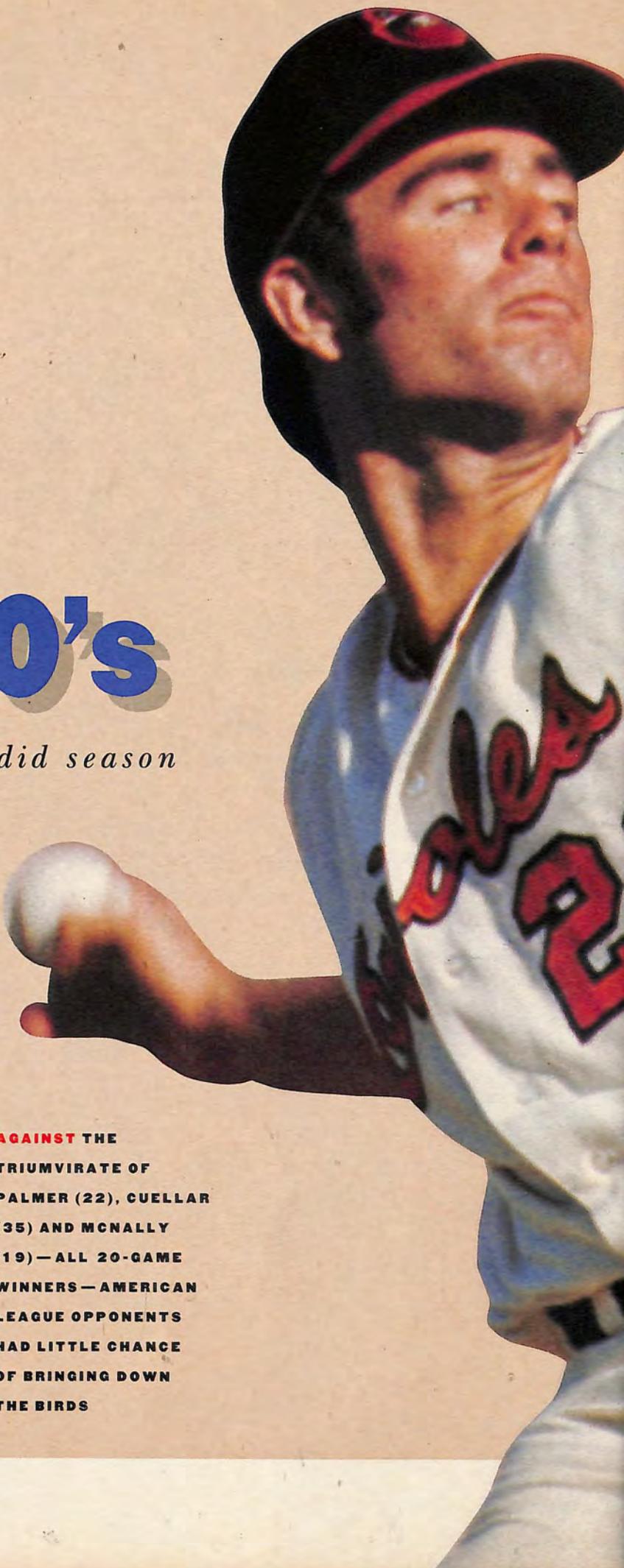
They had thought they were the best team in baseball a year earlier, when they won 109 regular-season games and the American League pennant. But then they ran into the Amazin' Mets and were humiliated in the '69 World Series.

That only made them angry. So in 1970 the Baltimore Orioles went on a rampage that earned them what they believed was rightfully theirs. "The Mets have our diamond," manager Earl Weaver liked to say of the rings missing from Baltimore fingers. Before the year was out, Weaver would have one of his own.

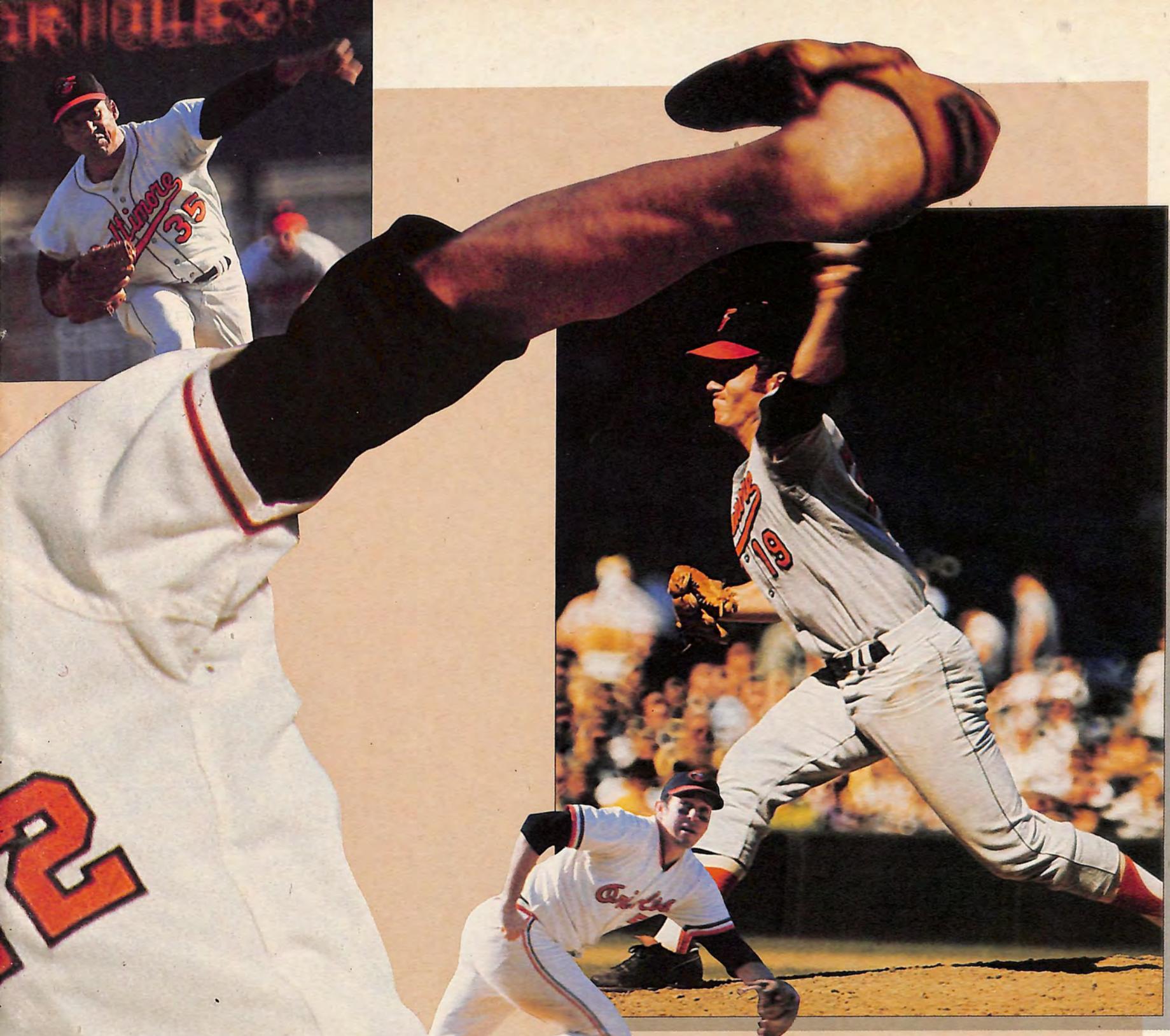
The 1970 Orioles were the rarest of birds, champions with chips on their shoulders. "Without saying it, without making promises, we were dedicated from spring training on to getting back into the World Series and winning it," said outfielder Frank Robinson.

Maybe he never said it out loud and maybe it wasn't a promise, but third baseman Brooks Robinson offered a clue on the eve of the team's first road trip. Robinson quietly attached to his suitcase a tag that read brooks robinson, baltimore orioles, 1970 world champions. Then the O's made it happen.

With virtually the same cast of characters, the Orioles again made a mockery of the American League East. They spent the entire season after April 26 perched in first place. The Yankees and Tigers stayed close for a while, but Baltimore went 22-8 in August, all but sewing up the division title. It was a remarkable month for Baltimore's Big Three: Dave McNally, Mike Cuellar and Jim Palmer. In 23 starts the



**AGAINST THE
TRIUMVIRATE OF
PALMER (22), CUELLAR
(35) AND McNALLY
(19)—ALL 20-GAME
WINNERS—AMERICAN
LEAGUE OPPONENTS
HAD LITTLE CHANCE
OF BRINGING DOWN
THE BIRDS**

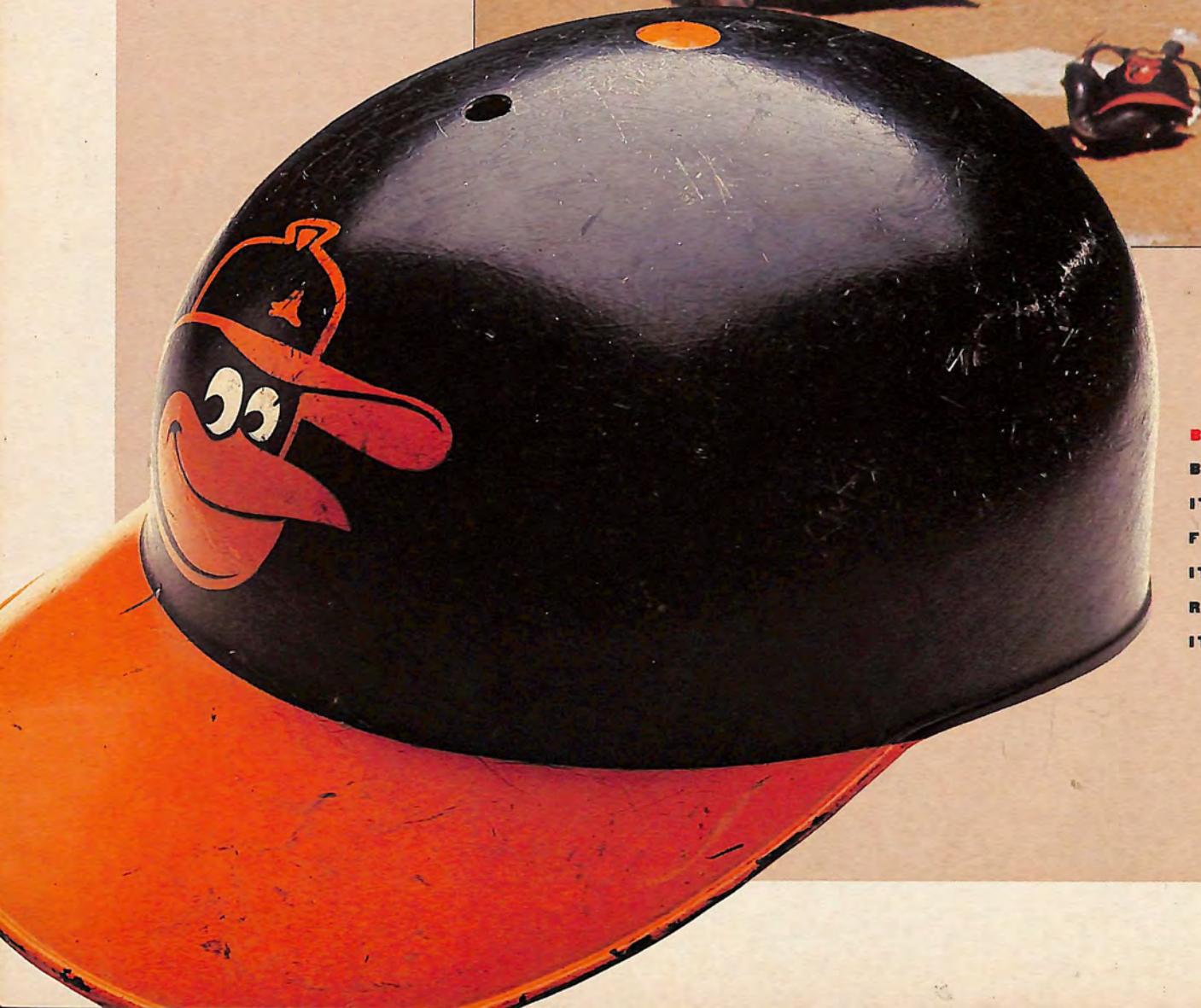


BROOKS ROBINSON
(NEAR LEFT) WAS
OVERSHADOWED BY
OTHER O'S DURING THE
SEASON, BUT HE LEAPT
INTO OCTOBER,
GRABBING EVERYTHING
IN SIGHT AND CLAIMING
THE WORLD SERIES
FOR HIS OWN

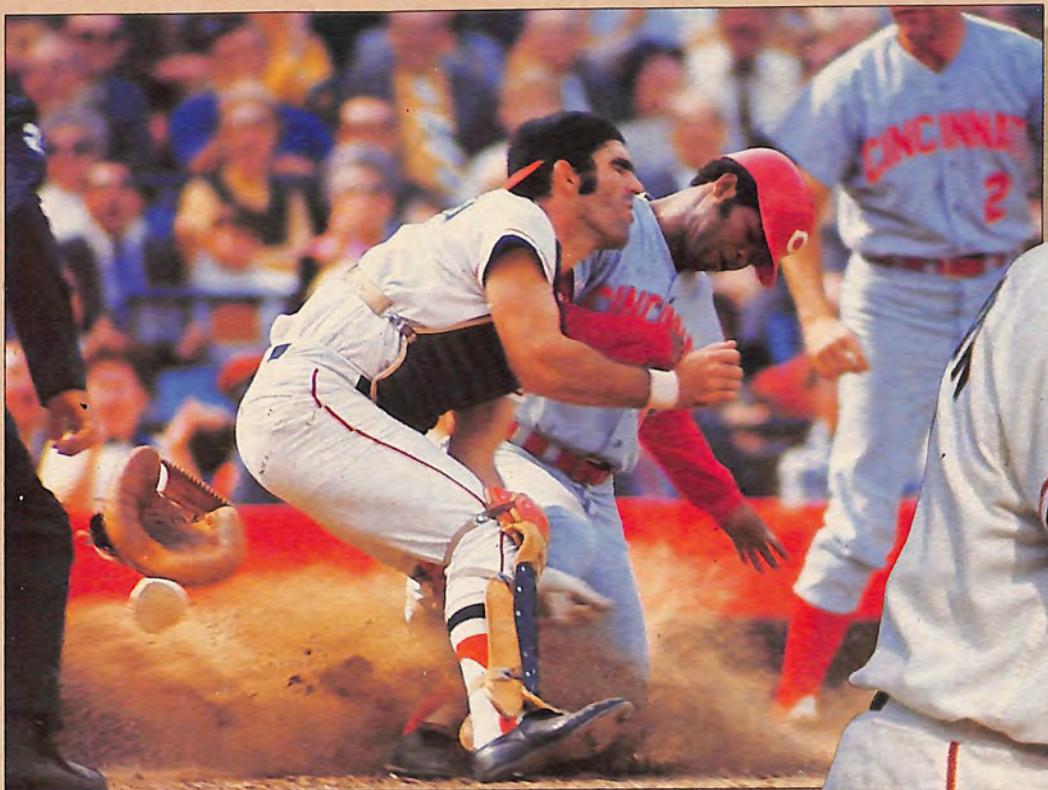


THE
1970
ORIOLES

WITH THE SCORE TIED IN THE SIXTH INNING OF GAME 1 OF THE SERIES, UMPIRE KEN BURKHART FOUND HIMSELF CAUGHT BETWEEN BALTIMORE CATCHER ELROD HENDRICKS AND THE REDS' BERNIE CARBO. BURKHART WAS BOWLED OVER AS HENDRICKS REACHED TO TAG CARBO WITH HIS EMPTY GLOVE. THE CALL? OUT



BROOKS ROBINSON'S BATTING HELMET MADE IT TO THE HALL OF FAME. HIS GLOVE MADE IT TOO, THOUGH ROBINSON DIDN'T HAND IT OVER RIGHT AWAY



WHEN BOBBY TOLAN
BANGED INTO ANDY
ETCHEBARREN, THE O'S
CATCHER LOST THE
BALL AND HIS GLOVE.
BUT BALTIMORE DIDN'T
LOSE MUCH ELSE IN THE
FIVE-GAME SERIES

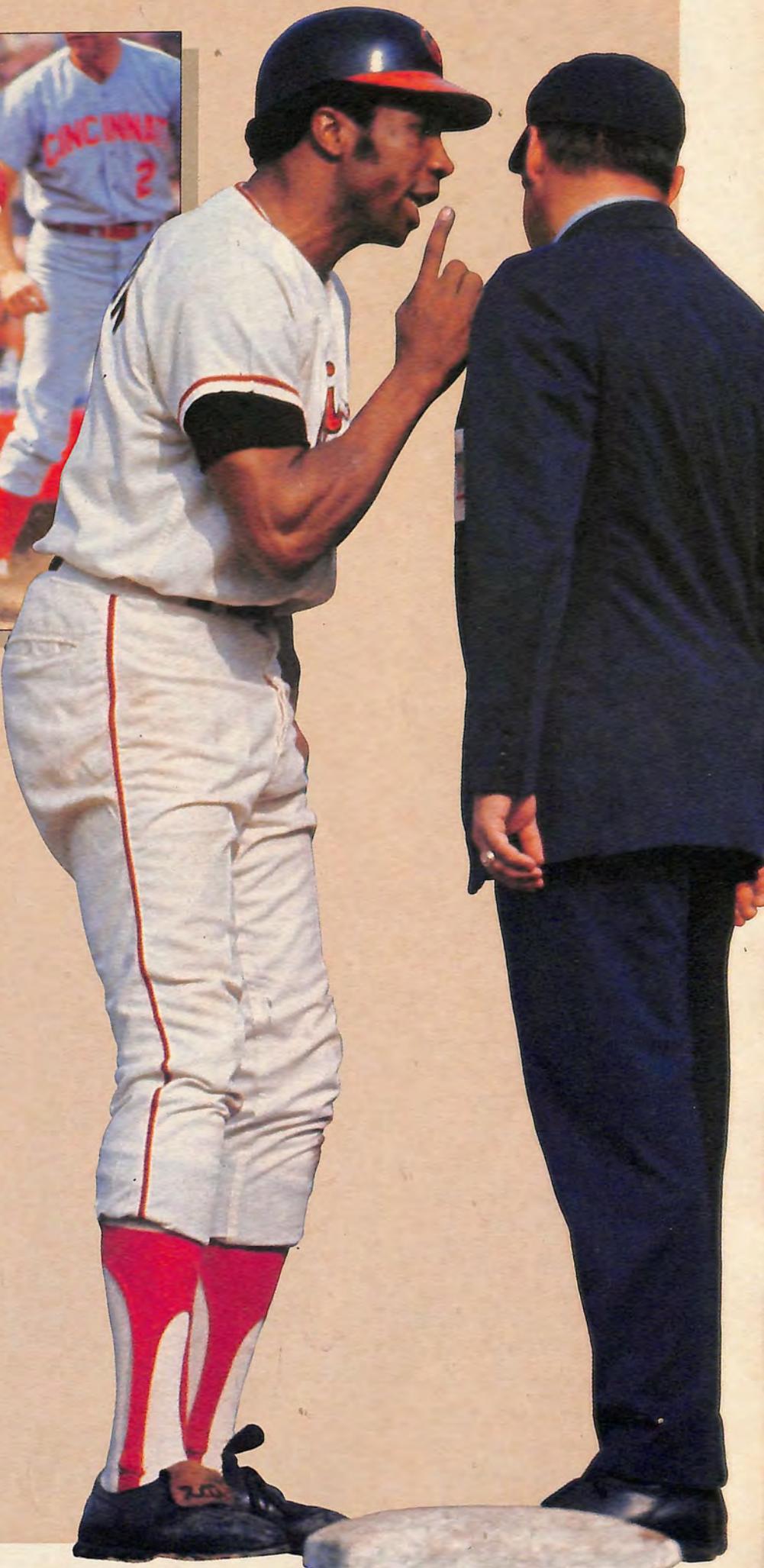
FRANK ROBINSON
TOOK ADVANTAGE OF
AN OPPORTUNITY TO
GET IN SOME PRACTICE
LINES FOR HIS LATER
ROLE AS A MANAGER

pitchers combined for an 18-2 record with 15 complete games. For the season Cuellar (24-9), McNally (24-8) and Palmer (20-10) pitched 54 complete games, 16 more than any other staff in the American League.

Instead of coasting as they had in '69, the Orioles won 11 in a row to close the season with a 108-54 record. First baseman Boog Powell (.297, 35 homers, 114 RBIs) and Frank Robinson (.306, 25 homers) were the big Birds in the attack, but eight players reached double figures in homers—making it a lovely season for Weaver, whose avowed favorite play was the three-run poke.

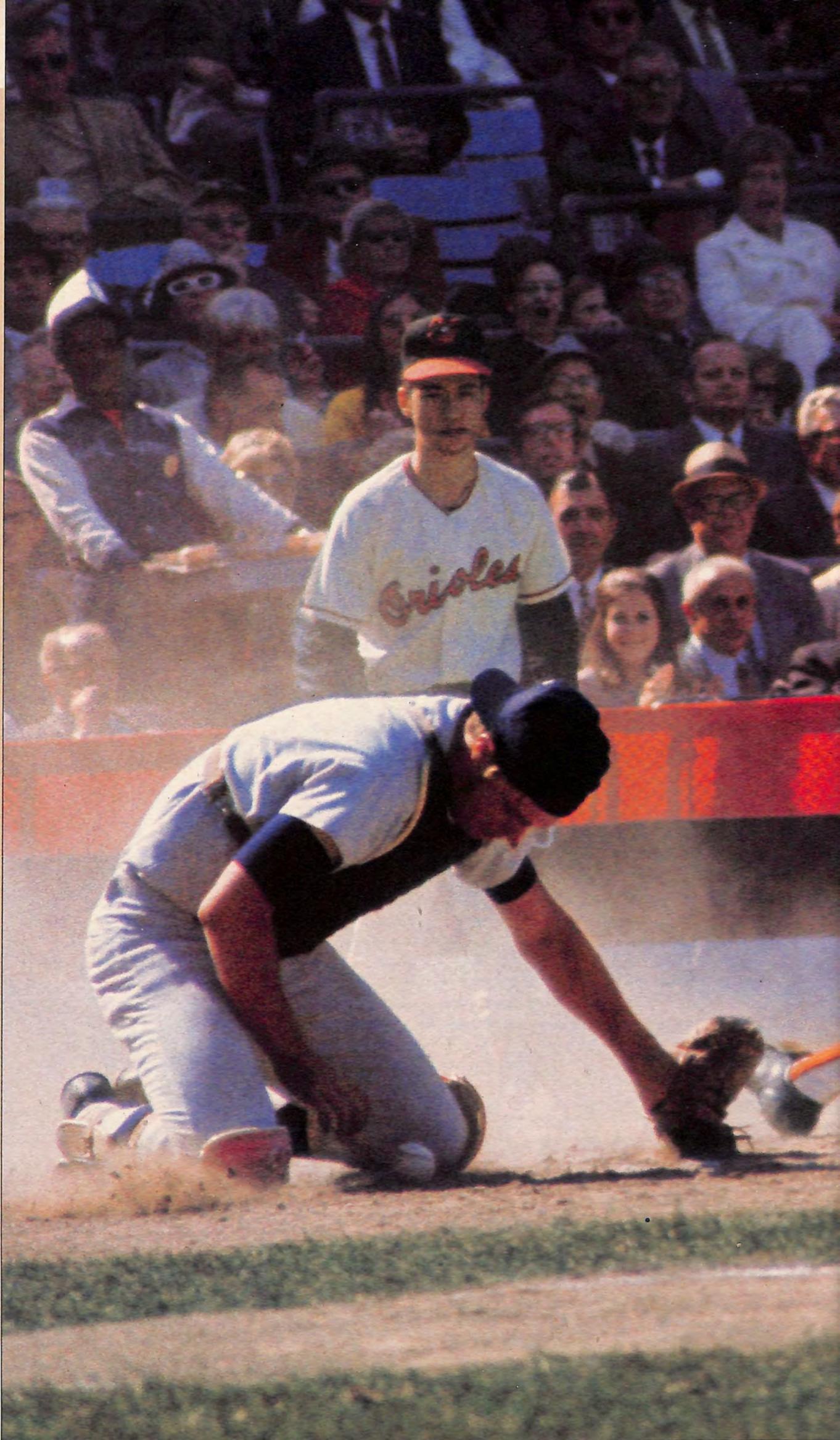
The defense, too, was beautiful to watch. Centerfielder Paul Blair, shortstop Mark Belanger, second baseman Dave Johnson and Brooks Robinson all won Gold Gloves. Brooks Robinson's trophy case was getting a bit crowded: The Gold Glove was his 11th. A steady performer, he was beloved in Baltimore but spent that year playing in the considerable shadow of Powell, who won the MVP award, and F. Robby, the moody superstar who even then had designs on becoming the majors' first black manager. But after the Orioles swept the Twins in the American League playoffs to move within reach of their ultimate prize, Brooks Robinson commanded center stage. There, in living color, the sensational Robinson practically tumbled out of TV sets in his furious quest for ground balls.

The Cincinnati Reds had swaggered into the World Series, having



THE
1970
ORIOLES

THE TWINS WERE NO MATCH FOR THE MIGHTY ORIOLES IN THE AMERICAN LEAGUE PLAYOFFS AS ROBINSON AND HIS CRONIES SWEPT PAST MINNESOTA IN THREE STRAIGHT. THE TWINS MAY HAVE THOUGHT THEY WERE SEEING DOUBLE—THE RESULT WAS EXACTLY THE SAME AS IT HAD BEEN THE YEAR BEFORE





THE 1970 ORIOLES

THE

1970

ORIOLES

IN AN OFT-REPEATED SCENE, THE RED-HOT ROBINSON WAS CONGRATULATED BY TEAMMATES. HIS HEROICS QUICKLY TURNED THE REDS' RAVE NOTICES INTO A WORLD SERIES OBITUARY



WITH THE ORIOLES' BIG THREE HURLING 54 COMPLETE GAMES, THE BALTIMORE BULLPEN WAS NEVER TOO BUSY. BUT RELIEVER DICK HALL (NEAR RIGHT) GOT A CHANCE TO SHINE IN GAME 2. AND WHEN IT WAS ALL DONE, WEAVER (FAR RIGHT) HAD A WORLD SERIES RING AND A SATISFIED SMILE

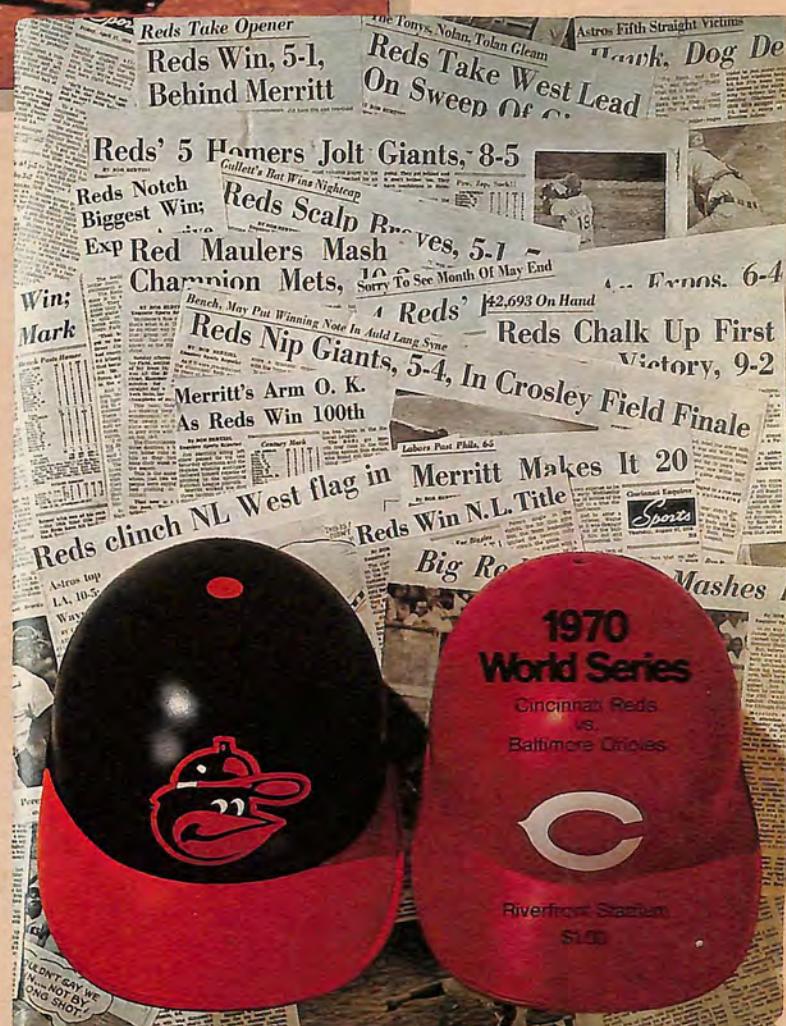
swept the Pirates in the divisional playoff. But unlike the Miracle Mets, the Big Red Machine had no magic about it. All the magic in this October was captured, like all the ground balls, in Brooks Robinson's glove.

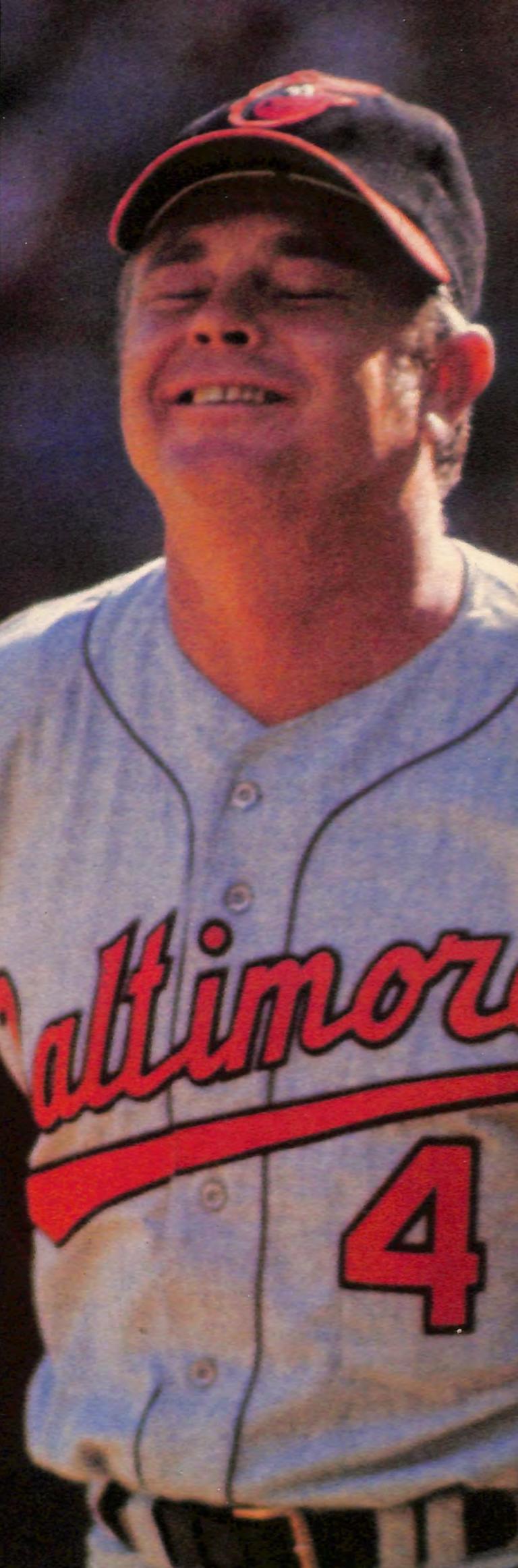
With the score tied 3-3 in Game 1, in Cincinnati, the Reds' Lee May led off the bottom of the sixth with a smash just inside the third base bag. It looked like a sure double until Robinson, a black-and-orange blur, lunged behind the base to spear the ball. In foul territory now, he whirled and made a one-bounce throw to Powell. Out. Palmer got out of the inning, and Robinson hit the game-winning homer with the bases empty in his next at bat.

The Orioles came from behind in Game 2 to win 6-5 and headed home with a 2-0 lead in the Series. The third game was a highlight film for Brooks: His two-run double in the first helped the Orioles get off to a fast start in what would be a 9-3 victory, and he made two more great plays to rob Reds of base hits.

Baltimore's juggernaut had now rolled to 17 consecutive wins. That ended when the Reds won the fourth game 6-5, but they were only staving off the inevitable. The Orioles led 9-3 in Game 5 when Robinson added the exclamation point. Leading off the ninth, Johnny Bench, the National League MVP, sent a hot liner in the third baseman's general direction. Launching himself horizontally, Robinson wound up face-first in foul territory, the ball in his glove for the out.

Robinson, of course, was the Series MVP. He batted .429, but it was his otherworldly fielding that people will long remember. The Hall of Fame asked for Robinson's glove, but he held on to it for a year. He just wanted to make sure all the magic was out. ■







ST. LOUIS CARDINALS



War Heroes

Before the war laid claim to baseball's best, the Cardinals won on the home front

Pearl Harbor was attacked four months before the start of the 1942 season, and there was some speculation that there would be no major league baseball for the duration of the war. But President Franklin D. Roosevelt said he considered the game vital to national morale and gave it his famous "green light" to proceed on schedule.

This early in World War II, most of the big league stars were still in baseball, not military, uniforms, so the caliber of play in '42 was scarcely affected. A year later, however, and for two seasons after that, baseball, like most private enterprises, would make do with the very young, the middle-aged and the militarily unfit. But in '42 the established heroes were still around, and some new ones were flashing briefly on the horizon before marching off.

One such newcomer was a speedy, line-drive-hitting outfielder for the St. Louis Cardinals who was at the time nicknamed the Donora Greyhound, after his hometown in Pennsylvania. Stanley Musial would, of course, become better known to future baseball generations as Stan the Man, but in '42 he was playing his first full season and, with Enos Slaughter in right and Terry Moore in center, was part of the National League's premier outfield.

Musial served notice of monumental achievements to come by hitting a solid .315 that season. "Country" Slaughter was the slugger on the team, leading the league in total bases with 292 and driving





IN THE SEASON OF '42
NO OUTFIELD COULD
MATCH THE CARDINALS
TRIO OF (FROM LEFT)
MUSIAL, SLAUGHTER
AND MOORE.
SLAUGHTER'S GLOVE
EARNED ENOUGH
RESPECT TO BECOME
A COOPERSTOWN
KEEPSAKE



THE
1942
 CARDINALS



A LETTER FROM FDR
 TO COMMISSIONER
 KENESAW MOUNTAIN
 LANDIS GAVE THE
 GREEN LIGHT TO PLAY
 BALL, IN SPITE OF DIRE
 WORLD EVENTS. MUSIAL
 (LEFT) AND HIS MATES
 DID THE PRESIDENT
 PROUD WITH A ROUSING
 PENNANT RUN PAST
 THE DODGERS AND A
 STIRRING SERIES UPSET
 OF THE HEAVILY
 FAVORED YANKEES

THE WHITE HOUSE
 WASHINGTON

January 15, 1942.

My dear Judge:-

Thank you for yours of January fourteenth. As you will, of course, realize the final decision about the baseball season must rest with you and the Baseball Club owners -- so what I am going to say is solely a personal and not an official point of view.

I honestly feel that it would be best for the country to keep baseball going. There will be fewer people unemployed and everybody will work longer hours and harder than ever before.

And that means that they ought to have a chance for recreation and for taking their minds off their work even more than before.

Baseball provides a recreation which does not last over two hours or two hours and a half, and which can be got for very little cost. And, incidentally, I hope that night games can be extended because it gives an opportunity to the day shift to see a game occasionally.

As to the players themselves, I know you agree with me that individual players who are of active military or naval age should go, without question, into the services, even if the actual quality of the team is lowered by the greater use of older players, this will not dampen the popularity of the sport. Of course, if any individual has some particular aptitude in a trade or profession, he ought to serve the Government. That, however, is a matter which I know you can handle with complete justice.

Here is another way of looking at it -- if 300 teams use 5,000 or 6,000 players, these players are a definite recreational asset to at least 20,000,000 of their fellow citizens -- and that in my judgment is thoroughly worthwhile.

With every best wish,

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Hon. Kenesaw M. Landis,
 333 North Michigan Avenue,
 Chicago,
 Illinois.

in 98 runs. Moore, the game's finest defensive centerfielder—with the possible exception of Joe DiMaggio—hit .288.

Built by St. Louis vice-president Branch Rickey and managed by Billy Southworth, this was a swift and daring Cardinals team in the Gashouse tradition. It hit with little home run power (60 as a team) but led the league in doubles (282), triples (69) and batting average (.268). The infield was anchored by the peerless shortstop Marty (the Octopus) Marion and rookie Whitey Kurowski at third. Catcher Walker Cooper teamed with pitcher Mort Cooper to form a potent battery of brothers: Mort led the league with 22 wins and was named its MVP; Walker, whose biggest years as a hitter were yet to come, batted .281 and drove in 65 runs.

The Cards and the defending-champion Dodgers dominated the National League that year, and their rivalry was intensified by a succession of on-field brawls, frequently started by the beanball tactics of Mort Cooper and the Dodgers' irascible righthander,



Whitlow Wyatt. Even the mild-mannered Musial got into the act. In a July game, Musial charged the mound for the first—and only—time in his career, after Brooklyn's Les Webber walked him with four knockdown pitches. Musial's teammate Lon Warneke (who was traded to the Cubs that summer) explained the beanball contests this way: "When you got a sundae in front of you and somebody reaches to take the chocolate off it, you've got to stop him right quick or the first thing you know he'll be reaching for the ice cream next."

The Dodgers led by as many as 10 games in mid-August, but the Cardinals caught and then passed them, winning 106 games. When asked later about the '42 race, Brooklyn second baseman Billy Herman would reply, "What went wrong? We won 104 games, didn't we? That's pretty damned good, isn't it? You bet your life that was pretty damned good. The only problem was, the Cardinals won 106."

For all their success, Southworth's speedsters were decided underdogs in the World Series to the powerful Yankees, and when New York's Red Ruffing held the Cards hitless for 7½ innings in the

first game, at St. Louis, a mismatch seemed in the making. The Cardinals trailed 7-0 in the ninth but finally pulled themselves together and scored four runs before losing. "That [rally] really made us feel better," pitcher Max Lanier later told author Donald Honig. "It showed we could throw a scare into the Yankees. And then we did more than scare them." In fact they beat them four in a row, with rookie Johnny Beazley winning the second and fifth games, lefthander Ernie White the third with a shutout and Lanier the fourth in relief. Musial hit a game-winning single in the bottom of the eighth in Game 2, and Kurowski hit a clinching two-run homer in the ninth inning of the finale for a 4-2 victory.

The Cardinals' convincing win was considered the biggest World Series upset since the Miracle Braves of 1914 swept Connie Mack's Athletics. The Cards would remain strong throughout the war, winning two more pennants and a World Series, but their ranks would thin out each year as Slaughter, then Moore and Beazley and, finally, Musial departed to join a bigger battle. ■





1955
BROOKLYN DODGERS



At Long Last

After years of frustration, Brooklyn won the big one

Ebbets Field in Brooklyn, home of the Dodgers, and the Polo Grounds in Manhattan, home of the New York Giants, were only 12 miles apart, a 25-minute ride on the subway that in 1955 cost 15 cents. (Change at Times Square for the uptown D train.) But it would have been appropriate for these Dodgers and Giants to play their games somewhere in between the two parks—such as in the ring at Madison Square Garden. These two teams hated each other.

The Dodgers of '55 were still the Boys of Summer, but twilight had come. Most of them—Campy, Gil, Pee Wee, Duke, Furillo, Jackie, Big Newk and Oisk—were in their 30's or near it. They had won four pennants in eight years, but never the World Series. Indeed, Brooklyn had lost all seven Series it had played in. Were these Dodgers too old to break the string?

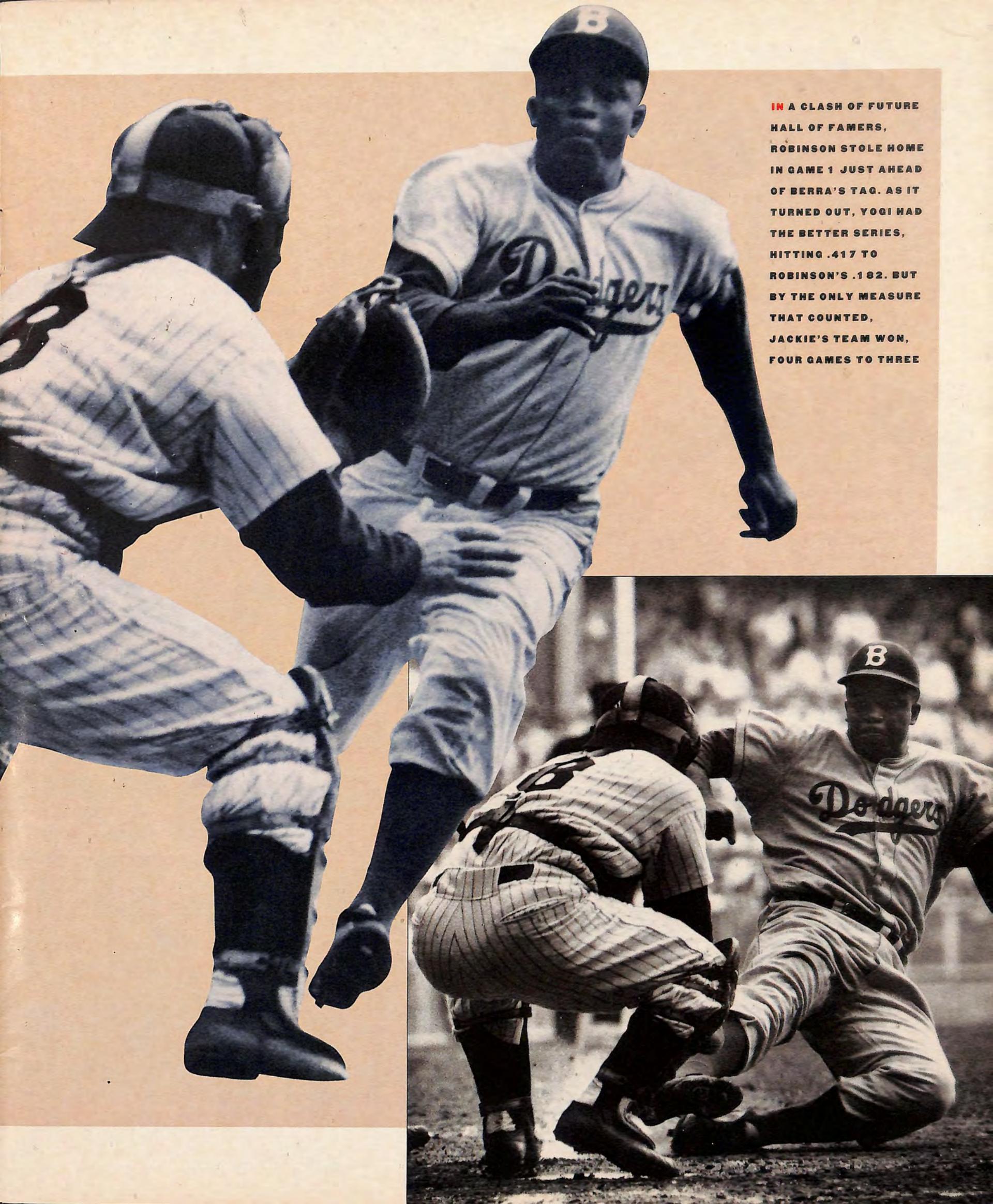
It didn't take long to find out. Opening Day at Ebbets Field was rained out, but Wednesday, April 13, though cold, wet and foggy, was playable. Carl Furillo and young Junior Gilliam hit home runs as Carl Erskine beat the Pirates 6-1. The next day, at the Polo Grounds, the Dodgers, leading 10-3, survived a late Giants rally—shades of '51—to win 10-8. They beat the Giants again the next day, and so it continued, win, win, win . . . 10 straight, the best start by any team in National League history.

On Friday night, April 22, the Giants stopped the streak. The next afternoon's game, which was carried on national television—a major

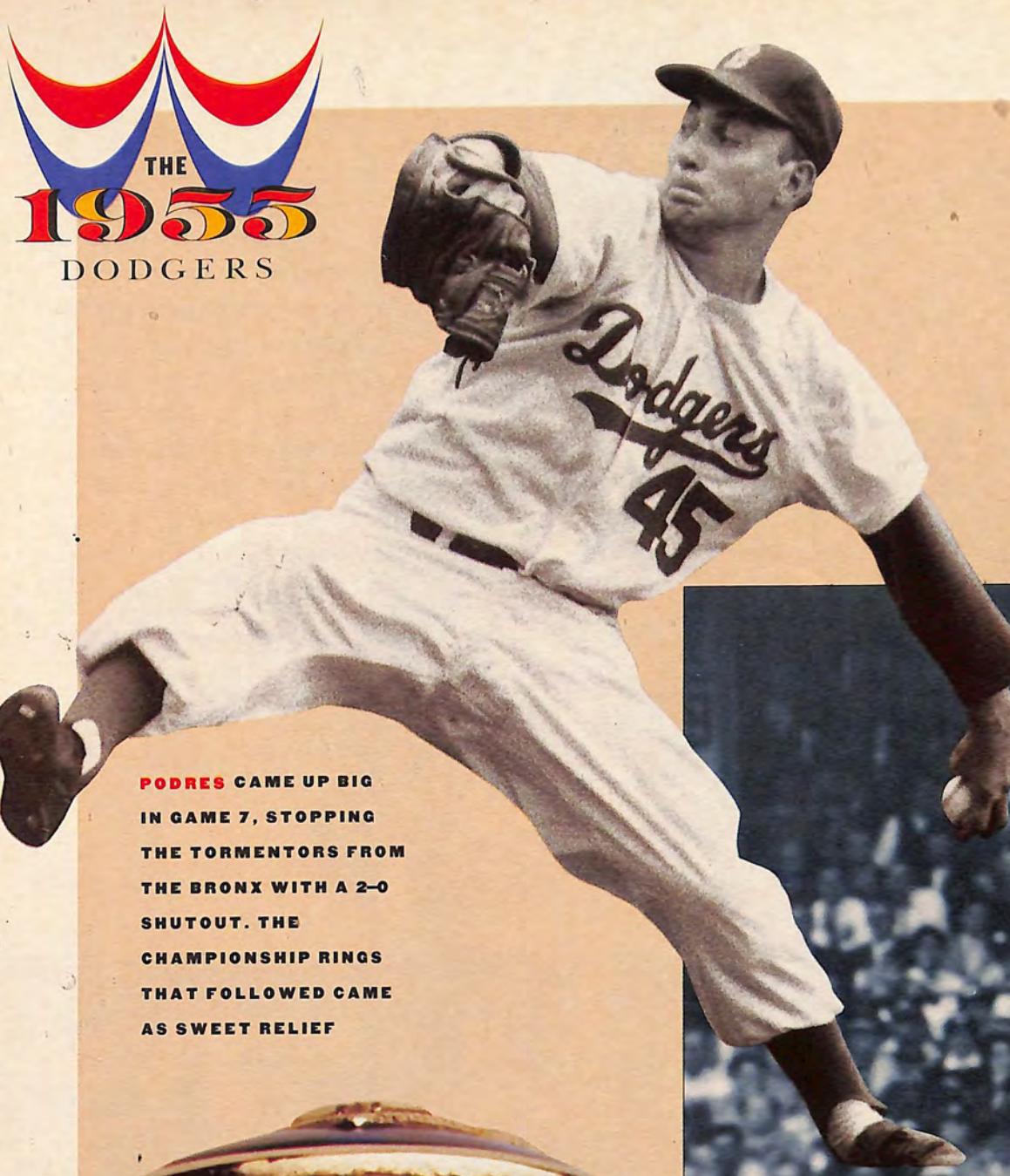


CLEM LABINE (LEFT),
THE DODGERS' RELIEF
ACE, TEAMED WITH
RIGHTY ROGER CRAIG
(40) TO BEAT THE
YANKS IN GAME 5





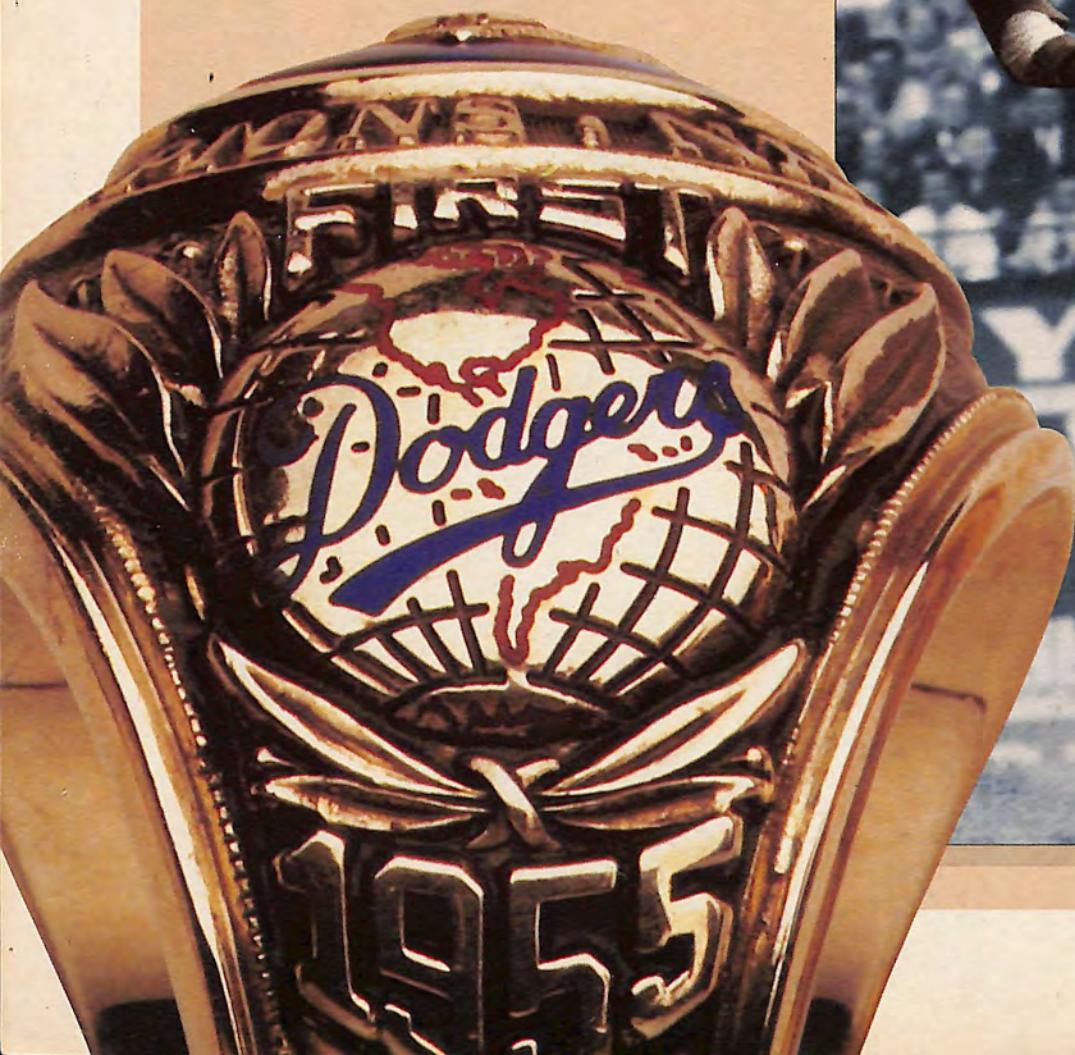
IN A CLASH OF FUTURE
HALL OF FAMERS,
ROBINSON STOLE HOME
IN GAME 1 JUST AHEAD
OF BERRA'S TAG. AS IT
TURNED OUT, YOGI HAD
THE BETTER SERIES,
HITTING .417 TO
ROBINSON'S .182. BUT
BY THE ONLY MEASURE
THAT COUNTED,
JACKIE'S TEAM WON,
FOUR GAMES TO THREE

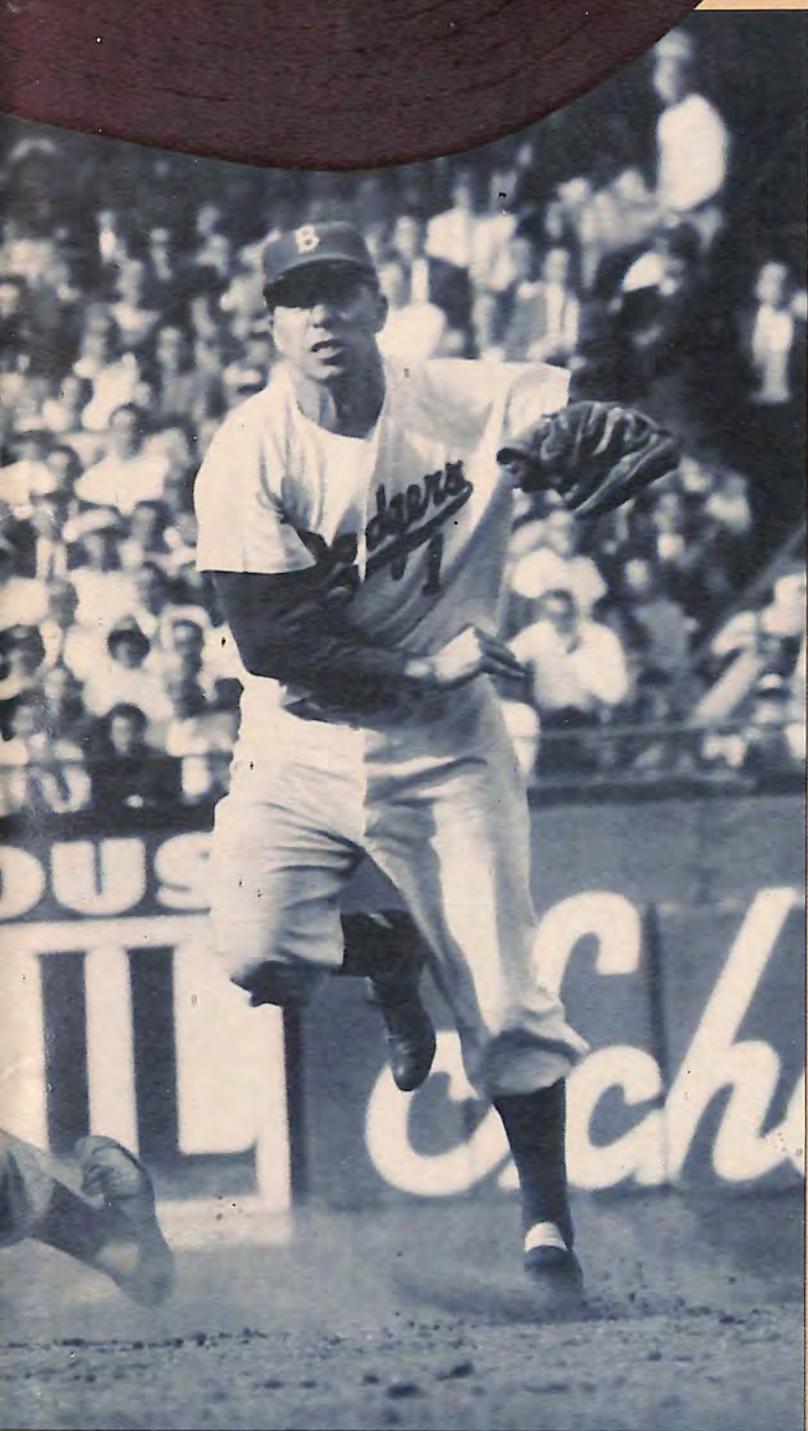


THE
1955
DODGERS

PODRES CAME UP BIG
IN GAME 7, STOPPING
THE TORMENTORS FROM
THE BRONX WITH A 2-0
SHUTOUT. THE
CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS
THAT FOLLOWED CAME
AS SWEET RELIEF

PEE WEE REESE
(BELOW) AND THE
OTHER BOYS OF
SUMMER FINALLY
TURNED IT AROUND
ON THE YANKS.
ROBINSON'S CAP HANGS
IN THE HALL OF
FAME TO HONOR THEIR
HEADY PLAY





event in those days—gave baseball fans who had never been east of the Mississippi a firsthand look at the intensity of the Dodgers-Giants rivalry. For three innings Sal Maglie brushed back or knocked down a series of Dodger hitters. In the fourth he flattened Roy Campanella, then struck him out.

That did it. Jackie Robinson, next up, pantomimed his intention, a bunt toward first base, then executed it on the second pitch. Maglie, no fool, stayed rooted to the mound. First baseman Whitey Lockman fielded the ball and flipped it to second baseman Davey Williams, who was covering first. Robinson, head down and running like the halfback he had been for UCLA, barreled into him. Both benches emptied. Williams, who had been a Giants regular for three seasons, had to be carried off the field, his career ruined. He was out for two months and never played another season.

And this battle wasn't over. In the next inning, Alvin Dark, the Giants captain, doubled but kept on running toward third, where Robinson waited with the ball. Dark threw a rolling block at Robinson, knocking the ball loose. Again both benches emptied, as Dark, who hailed from Louisiana, and Robinson, the major leagues' first black, stood toe-to-toe, nose-to-nose.

The Dodgers won that game, lost another and then reeled off 11 straight to stand at 22-2. Nine-game lead, season over. For 4½ months everybody else was playing for second. Don Newcombe finished with a 20-5 record, and Duke Snider led the league in RBIs with 136.

Facing the Dodgers in the World Series were—who else?—the New York Yankees. It was always the Yankees, in 1941, '47, '49, '52 and '53. And always the Yankees won. Sometimes easily, sometimes not, but in the end the same result. "Wait till next year" was Brooklyn's refrain. In '47 and '52 the Series had gone seven games, but in each finale the Dodgers fell short. Now, in 1955, the two teams again played the first six games to 3-3.

Game 7, Yankee Stadium, Oct. 4. Pitching for the Dodgers was 23-year-old lefthander Johnny Podres, who was acting awfully cocky for someone whose record that season had been 9-10. On the team bus to the Stadium he kept yelling, "One run, just give me one."

The Dodgers gave him twice that. Because Robinson had been injured in Game 6, Don Zimmer had started at second base for the Dodgers. In the top of the sixth, Brooklyn manager Walter Alston pinch-hit for Zimmer; in the bottom of the inning Alston moved Gilliam from leftfield to second and put lefthanded Sandy Amoros in left. You could hear the fearful rumblings from every bar in Brooklyn: "Four innings left, two-run lead, Jackie's out, Amoros in left. Could be trouble...."

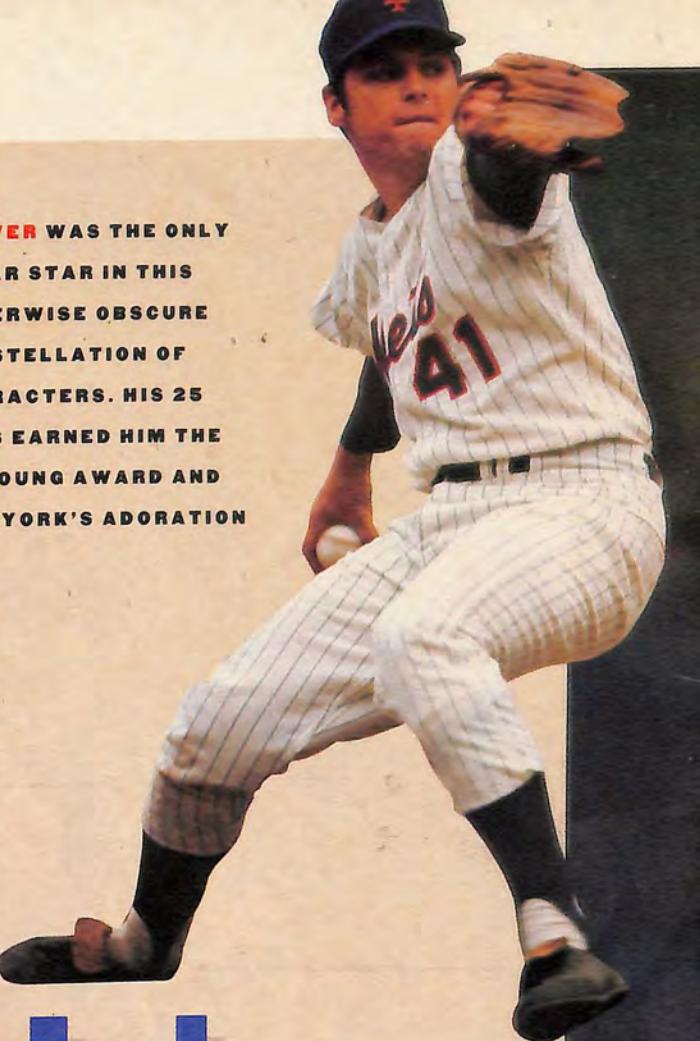
Sure enough, trouble began brewing when Billy Martin walked and Gil McDougald laid down a bunt single to move Martin to second. Two on, none out, and up stepped Yogi Berra—Berra, who could hit just about any pitch. Podres threw him a change outside, and Berra, lunging, looped it toward left near the seats that angled to within inches of the foul line.

Amoros was shaded to center on the lefty-swinging Berra; few people thought he had a chance to make the catch, least of all McDougald, who had rounded second. But Amoros, being lefthanded, was able to reach out with his gloved right hand and gather in the ball a step away from the railing. Braking to a stop, he turned and threw a strike to Pee Wee Reese, who from his shortstop's position had come out to shallow leftfield. Reese relayed the ball to Gil Hodges at first in time to double up McDougald. Two out, man on second. The crisis was over and so, essentially, was the game. Podres and the Dodgers won 2-0.

Next year had finally arrived.



SEAYER WAS THE ONLY
CLEAR STAR IN THIS
OTHERWISE OBSCURE
CONSTELLATION OF
CHARACTERS. HIS 25
WINS EARNED HIM THE
CY YOUNG AWARD AND
NEW YORK'S ADORATION



Simply Amazin'

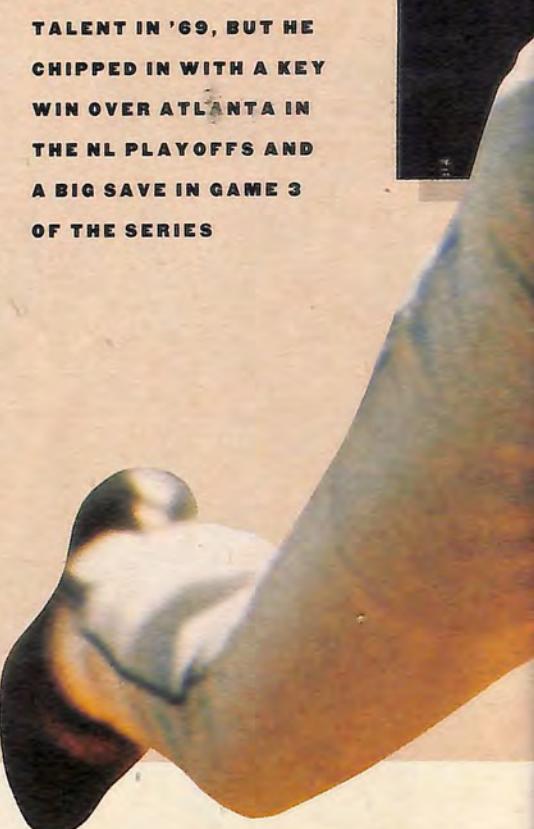
Overnight, the lovable, laughable Mets turned into champions

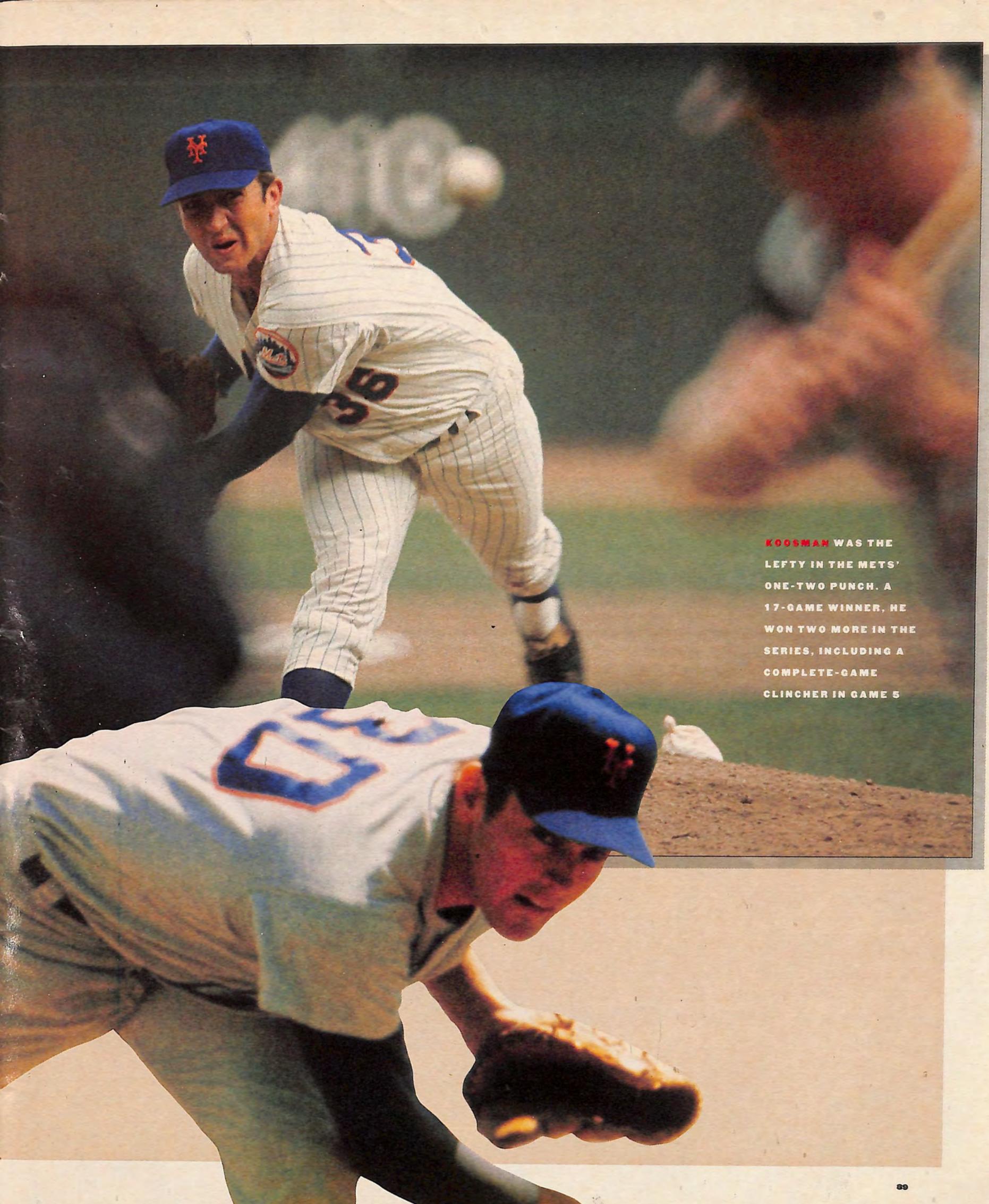
The morning after the New York Mets clinched the 1969 National League East title, the headline of the New York *Daily News* read **THE MOON: ASTRONAUTS TOOK 9 YEARS, METS 8**. Never mind that the world championship to cap this miracle season wouldn't come until three weeks later; for beleaguered Mets fans the very idea of a winning club was one that only a year before had been beyond hope, and certainly beyond comprehension.

For seven years the Mets had cultivated a devoted following as lovable losers: Since their inception in 1962, they had never finished higher than ninth, losing 737 games along the way, to finish a total of 289 games out of first place. But in the summer of '69, without warning, the Mets began winning. They won games in implausible fashion with improbable heroes. While some measure of the team's success could be attributed to manager Gil Hodges's expert juggling of the lineup, the Mets' winning ways stemmed more from an irreproducible combination of luck, momentum and a pure *belief* in themselves. On the night the Mets captured the division crown, a swarm of reporters surrounded Hodges and asked—or, rather, demanded—an explanation for these nervy upstarts. Hodges simply looked up at the ceiling and said, "Can't be done."

The season had begun predictably enough, with the Mets losing their eighth straight Opening Day game, 11-10 to the newly formed Montreal Expos. But then the Mets began to win, relying heavily on Tom Seaver, their fireballing ace, who would win 25 games and the

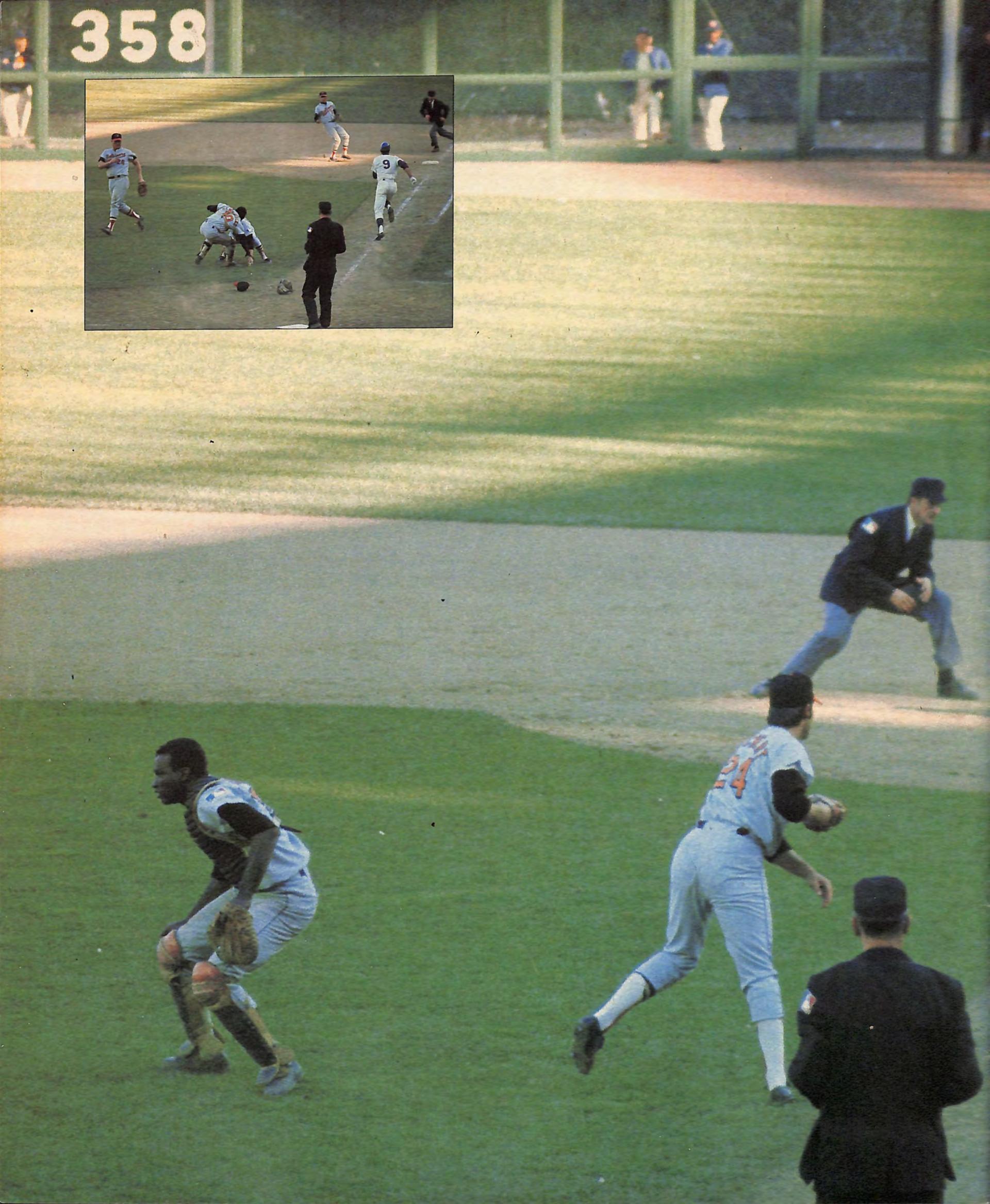
RYAN (BELOW, RIGHT)
WAS STILL A RAW
TALENT IN '69, BUT HE
CHIPPED IN WITH A KEY
WIN OVER ATLANTA IN
THE NL PLAYOFFS AND
A BIG SAVE IN GAME 3
OF THE SERIES





KOOSMAN WAS THE LEFTY IN THE METS' ONE-TWO PUNCH. A 17-GAME WINNER, HE WON TWO MORE IN THE SERIES, INCLUDING A COMPLETE-GAME CLINCHER IN GAME 5

358





THE
1969
METS

THE METS' MAGIC
APPEARED AGAIN IN
THE 10TH INNING OF
GAME 4. ON A BUNT BY
PINCH HITTER J.C.
MARTIN (9), THE THROW
BY O'S PITCHER PETE
RICHERT (24) HIT
MARTIN'S WRIST,
ALLOWING THE WINNING
RUN TO SCORE.
MARTIN'S ILLEGAL RUN
INSIDE THE BASE PATH
WAS IGNORED



THE 1969 METS

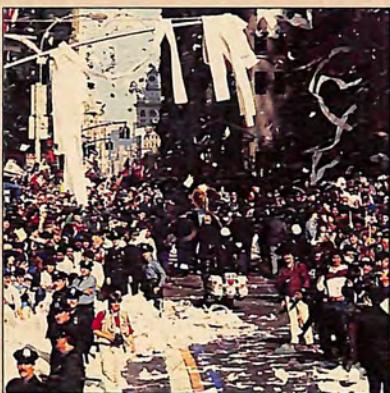
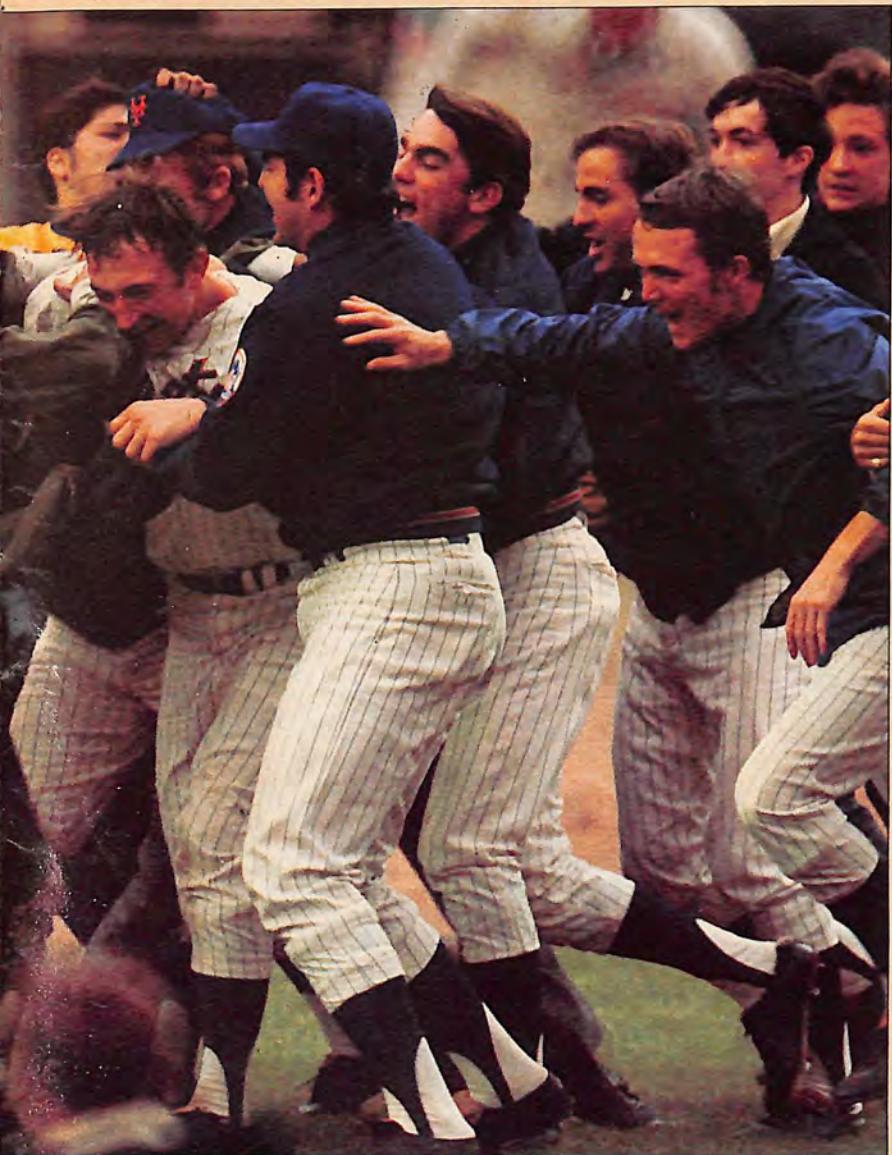
**SHEA STADIUM, LONG
THE SCENE OF BIZARRE
BASEBALL, WAS
STUNNED TO FIND
ITSELF HOSTING THE
WORLD SERIES**



**KOOSMAN'S CAREER
MAY NOT EARN HIM
A PLACE IN THE HALL
OF FAME, BUT HIS
WORLD SERIES JERSEY
IS ALREADY IN**



KOOSMAN (AT CENTER, BELOW) THREW A FIVE-HITTER TO CLOSE OUT BALTIMORE IN GAME 5, INCITING A NEW YORK PARTY THAT ENDED DEEP IN TICKER TAPE



Cy Young Award that year. Seaver was complemented by lefthander Jerry Koosman, who won 17; hard-throwing rookie Gary Gentry; and a youngster named Nolan Ryan. By June 2 the club had climbed to the .500 mark, no small feat for a Mets team in June.

The first sign of bigger things to come came two days later, when a lefthander named Jack DiLauro washed ashore from Triple A Tidewater to shut out Los Angeles on two hits for the first nine innings of a scoreless tie. In the top of the 15th, with the game still scoreless and a Dodger on third, New York second baseman Al Weis saved a run with an astounding defensive play on a deflected ball. Minutes later, New York centerfielder Tommie Agee scored the winning run after an outfield error by Willie Davis.

The team kept getting the right bounces and kept winning. One day the hero would be Donn Clendenon, the power-hitting first baseman. The next day the hero would be Tug McGraw, the irrepressible reliever. On another day it would be Ed Charles, the gentle-spirited third baseman. "Every one of us knew when it was time to pick the other guy up," said Charles near the end of the season. "Everybody figured, What the hell, what am I waiting for? Do it now, baby, because there's no big man going to do it for you."

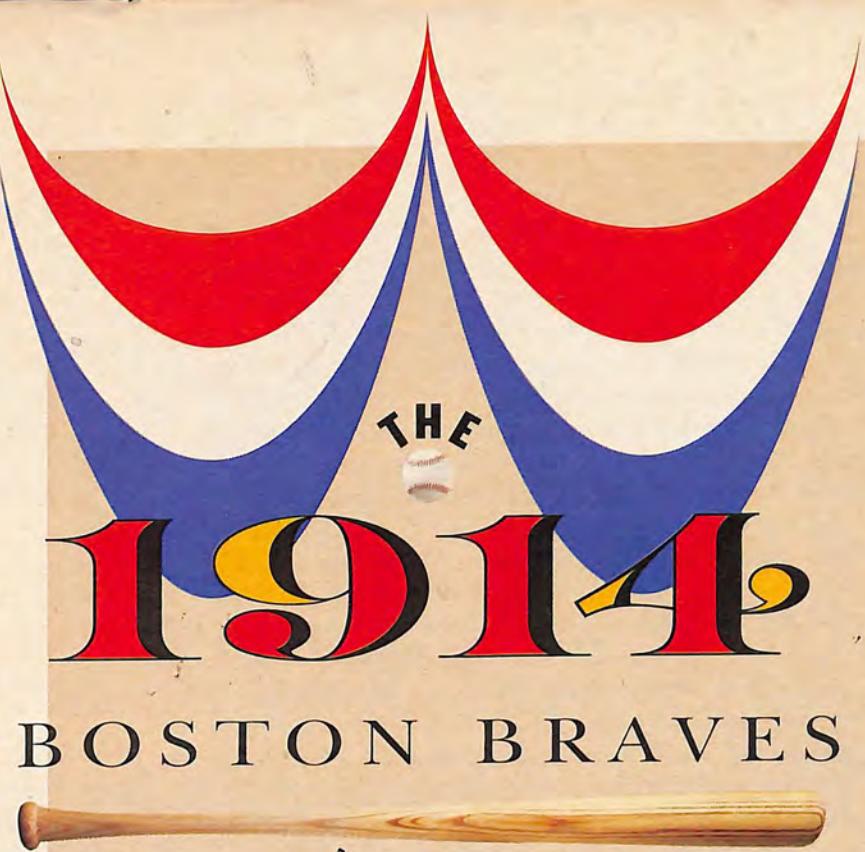
In early July the Mets won two of three from the first-place Cubs in the first "crucial series" in the franchise's history. In a rematch at Wrigley a week later, the Mets again took two of three, to move to within 3½ games of first place. Four days later, with only slightly less drama, Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.

New York finished the season with one of the greatest stretch drives in history, winning 38 of their last 49 games and blowing past the Cubs by 8 games. The Mets then dispatched the Atlanta Braves in the playoffs with frightening ease. After the three-game sweep, Atlanta general manager Paul Richards said, "They ought to send the Mets to Vietnam. They'd end the war in three days."

It took the Mets twice that long to finish off the heavily favored Baltimore Orioles in the World Series. After splitting the first two games in Baltimore, the teams went to Shea for Game 3—better known now as The Tommie Agee Show. In the bottom of the first Agee hit a leadoff homer off Jim Palmer. In the fourth he ran deep into left center to pluck an Elrod Hendricks drive out of the air backhanded, saving two runs. Three innings later Agee made a sprawling catch of Paul Blair's bases-loaded drive. The Mets won 5-0, and Agee had single-handedly prevented five Oriole runs.

After the game, Hodges debated over which was the greatest World Series catch of all time—Agee's first or Agee's second. The question became moot less than 24 hours later in Game 4. With the Mets clinging to a 1-0 lead with one out in the top of the ninth, the O's had runners on the corners. Brooks Robinson hit a line drive to right center that looked to be a clean double. But Mets rightfielder Ron Swoboda, who normally fielded like a bobble-headed doll, raced toward shallow center, dived, and at full extension caught the ball as he hit the ground. Baltimore's Frank Robinson tagged up to tie the score, but that was all the Orioles got. The Mets pieced together a run in the bottom of the 10th on a double and an error to win 2-1.

The Orioles, winners of 109 regular-season games, were stunned. Game 5 saw Baltimore take an early 3-0 lead that the Mets, predictably, overcame. The end to the season of belief and disbelief came on Oct. 16 at 3:17 p.m. Oriole second baseman Davey Johnson—who 17 years later would guide a Mets squad to the franchise's only other world championship—lofted a two-out fly to left. Cleon Jones settled gently into position, peered into the sky and reached up to catch the ball. It might as well have been the moon.



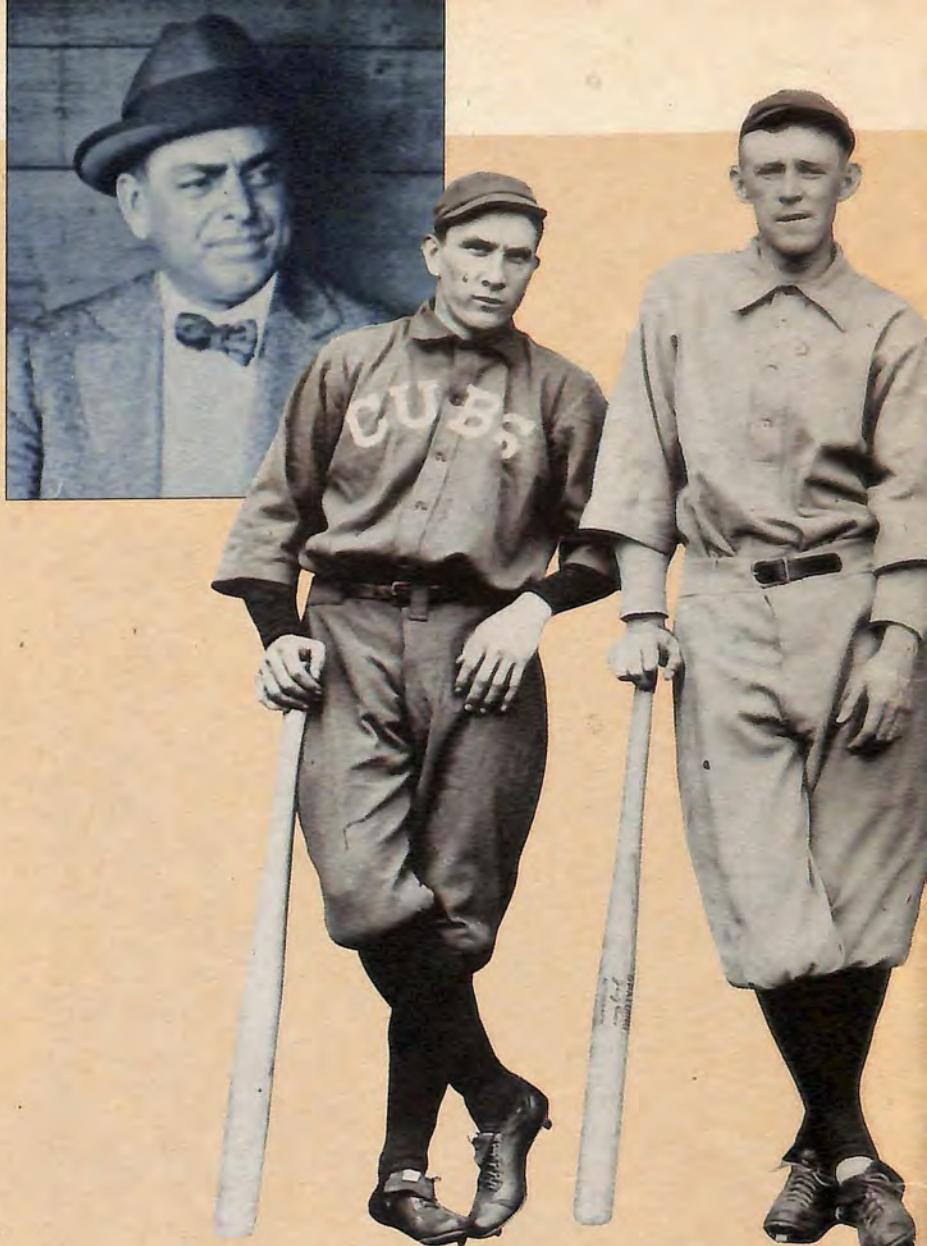
A Miracle

In July the Braves were in last place; in October they were world champs

Miracles don't come often in baseball. There was Bob Feller's Miracle Game, his Opening Day no-hitter in 1940. There was Bobby Thomson in the Miracle at Coogan's Bluff in 1951. There were the Miracle Mets in 1969. But before them all came the club first hailed with the term: the 1914 Miracle Braves from Boston.

In truth, the '14 Braves' success stemmed less from any supernatural causes than it did from the workings of manager George Stallings. Stallings was a dynamic man who could be, by turns, combative or contemplative. Prone to furious fits of temper, Stallings accepted nothing less than total devotion from his players. Yet he was their staunchest ally against outsiders. He was an innovative tactician on the field—the first to platoon players on a regular basis—but it was as a motivator that he excelled. Players were known to take pay cuts to be on a George Stallings team.

Stallings arrived in Boston to manage the Braves in 1913, a season in which they finished fifth in the National League. He quickly dismantled that squad, keeping only a handful of players, among them future Hall of Fame shortstop Rabbit Maranville. Stallings then put together a club of castoffs and unknowns, insisting that he preferred hard workers with borderline talent to lazy stars. "Give me a ball club of only mediocre ability," he would say, "and if I can get the players in the right frame of mind, they'll beat the world



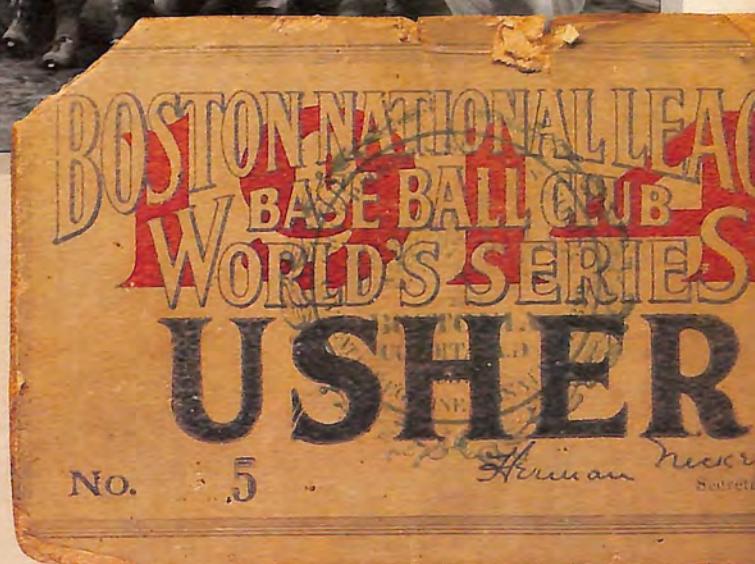
champions." Mediocre ability is what Stallings got: The Braves started the 1914 season by going 4-18; by July the team was firmly entrenched in last place. But Stallings was getting his players into that right frame of mind, cajoling them into winning.

As their manager's tactics began to take effect, the Braves began moving up the National League ladder. Their three-man starting rotation pitched brilliantly through the midseason. By season's end Dick Rudolph would lead the league with 27 wins; spitballer Bill James would get 26 victories, and Lefty Tyler 16. Meanwhile, Stallings used 11 different outfielders and sent lefty batters to hit against righthanded pitchers, and vice versa, a novel concept at the time. On Aug. 10 the Braves moved into second place, only 6½ games behind John McGraw's New York Giants.

Stallings's squad would go to any lengths to get a win. Against Pittsburgh, Maranville went to the plate with the bases loaded in the ninth inning of a scoreless game. With the count 0 and 2, Maranville leaned over the plate to make sure he got hit. The pitch nailed him smack in the middle of his forehead. Umpire Charlie Moran, who was more than a little suspicious, told Maranville, "If you can walk to first base, I'll let you get away with it." As his teammates cheered him on, Maranville staggered down the line and collapsed across the base to collect the most painful of his 78 RBIs that year.



JAMES (BELOW) HELPED STYMIE THE A'S IN THE SERIES, LEADING TO A SWEEP THAT MADE A PROPHET OF STALLINGS (FAR LEFT). IN 1925 THE BRAVES INFILID GATHERED FOR A REUNION: (FROM LEFT) MARANVILLE (SS), JOHNNY EVER (2B), CHARLIE DEAL (3B), BUTCH SCHMIDT (1B)



Boston won 43 of its last 57 games, breezing by the stunned Giants on Sept. 8 and finishing with a 10½ game lead. Still, the Braves went into the World Series as solid 2-to-1 underdogs to the Philadelphia Athletics. Stallings immediately went to work on the psychological game. He was publicly contemptuous of Philadelphia, saying he had no need to scout the A's, although his assistants secretly did. With unmitigated gall he predicted his team would sweep Philadelphia in four games. The A's were still trying to figure out who this team of arrogant upstarts was when they dropped the first game 7-1 and lost the second, a two-hitter by Boston's Bill James, 1-0.

As the Series headed to Boston, Stallings ordered his team to pack up all its road equipment. "We won't be coming back," he said. "It'll be all over after the two games in Boston." After Boston won the third game 5-4 in 12 innings, Stallings had the Braves' traveling secretary cancel their train reservations to Philadelphia. Boston completed the sweep with a 3-1 win, and Braves fans celebrated an upset that was likened to the sinking of the Spanish Armada by the English in 1588.

Stallings was a national celebrity, hailed as the "Edison of baseball." There was another sobriquet acquired by Stallings during that 1914 season, one that has never again been given to another manager or player: the Miracle Man.

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